Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Action team will battle illegal camps and fly-tippers

EXPERT SOUGHT TO TARGET TRAVELLERS

Report by Alex Ross

A LEGAL expert on a salary of up to £51,000 is wanted by Sandwell Council to lead an action team targeting illegal traveller camps and fly-tippers.

The council has stepped up its efforts in recent months to tackle the issue of traveller camps after revealing the clean-up was costing more than £400,000 a year.

Already this year, bosses have been granted new powers to allow them to move travellers from council-owned land within 24 hours.

Now the council is searching for a Corporate Action Co-ordinator for unauthorised encampments and fly-tipping, offering a salary of up to £51,125 a year. The job brief is to prevent and deter unauthorised encampments and fly-tipping.

The applicant must also be able to prove they can ensure the 'full range of legal and enforcement powers' available to protect the public and businesses, by moving on illegal camps.

A summary for the job, posted this week, read: "To lead corporate, while council action planning to prevent or deter unauthorised encampments and fly-tipping in the borough. The objective is to put in place plans and actions that pro-actively prevent or deter unauthorised encampments and fly-tipping in advance of it occurring."

Rubbish

The role would be working with the police and Environment Agency.

Illegal traveller camps have long-plagued the borough. Earlier this month travellers left 50 tons of rubbish at Black Patch Park in Smethwick. The rubbish consisted of more than 300 tyres, rubble, black bags, furniture, beds and double glazed windows. The council was left with a £16,000 bill to clean up the site. The group of travellers also set up camps at Blakeley Wood Road in Tipton, and then Ridgeacre Road Industrial Estate in West Bromwich, after leaving Black Patch, but were also evicted from those sites by bailiffs.

Car parks, parks and other council-owned sites around Sandwell had to be secured.

Councillor Steve Eling, council leader, said: "We are actively working to prevent unauthorised encampments and crack down on fly-tipping. This role will oversee and tackle these specific issues which are often related to each other. We're currently spending more than £400,000 a year cleaning up after unauthorised encampments and this has to stop."

TUNISIA TERROR VICTIMS' FAMILIES TO SUE FIRM

Suzy Richards, centre, arrives for the conclusion of the inquests with her surviving son Owen

Joel Richards

Patrick Evans

Joel's uncle Adrian

DEFIANT families of the Tunisia terror attack victims are to sue the tour operator TUI as a coroner ruled their relatives were unlawfully killed. Thirty British tourists were murdered in the attack – including three members of the same Black Country family.

At the conclusion of the six-week inquests on Tuesday, coroner Judge Nicholas Loraine-Smith rejected suggestions 'neglect' by travel companies played any part in the deaths. But some relatives including Suzy Richards from Wednesbury have now revealed they plan to launch civil action against TUI. The coroner reserved criticism for the Tunisian police's response to the mass shooting at the beach resort in Sousse carried out by IS-inspired gunman Seifeddine Rezgui.

Among the 30 people slaughtered by Rezgui were Miss Richards' 19-year-old son Joel, her brother Adrian Evans, from Bilston, and father Patrick Evans. Miss Richards' youngest son Owen, then 16, survived the attack.

She said she hoped lessons would be learned from the deaths of her loved ones. A statement from Miss Richards said: "We all know our loved ones were murdered by the terrorist who pulled the trigger that fateful day, but what we have been striving to understand is whether anyone could have anticipated such a terrorist attack and what procedures could have been in place to prevent it. I am personally convinced that an attack of this nature was entirely predictable and that there was a responsibility placed upon the Tunisian authorities and TUI to put safety structures and procedures in place."

At the final hearing at the Royal Courts of Justice, Judge Loraine-Smith labelled the police response 'shambolic' and 'cowardly'. Nick Longman, managing director of TUI UK, said, the attack had 'shocked and devastated all of us'. Speaking outside court, he said: "As an industry we have adapted and we will need to continue to do so."

● Errors – Page 3

ENCAMPMENT

Convoy of caravans pitch up on car park

TRAVELLERS have brazenly set up camp in a busy supermarket car park.

The group of five caravans arrived outside Tesco Extra in the centre of West Bromwich at around 5pm on Monday.

Tesco's management also met with representatives from Sandwell Council's Trading Standards on Tuesday morning, but said that the land belongs to New Square.

Caravans at the store

Security staff of the shopping complex joined with bailiffs to approach the encampment, and a notice of eviction was given ordering them off the site within 24 hours.

No other enforcement action was taken. Shoppers expressed their surprise at the group of caravans, assembled at one end of the car park next to other vehicles.

Burt Babb who lives across the road on Summer Street, said: "Are they going to pay the parking fees? I think not.

"They should be given their own place. They don't seem to be causing trouble, but it's often the clear-up afterwards."

One of those angry at their arrival was nearby resident David Lesycyznski, who said: "It is disgusting. They keep turning up around West Bromwich."

WEAPONS

22 knives put in town centre amnesty bin

MORE than 20 knives have been surrendered after they were put into an amnesty bin in West Bromwich town centre.

Police welcomed the disposal of the items in the receptacle in High Street. Officers put photographs of the knives online. Some had blades several inches long.

@WestBromwichWMP tweeted: "22 knives collected from the knife bin on West Bromwich High Street. 22 less on our streets. #knifebin"

David Jamieson, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "These bins are only successful if the community supports them, and I would like to thank everyone who deposited a weapon for doing the responsible thing."

Police officers in the Black Country regularly use the bins so members of the public can anonymously dispose of knives.

INSIDE

HE'S COOL CAINE AND COLLECTED

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Gas pipe fears as homes earmarked

Councillor Ian Jones

PLANNING experts have ruled townhouses and flats should be built on the site of a former pub despite concerns from the Health and Safety Executive about a potentially dangerous gas pipeline running under the pavement in front of the land.

The HSE has tried to block the development on the site of the Cottage Spring in Tipton, but Sandwell Council officers have stated it should be allowed to go ahead. The application was being heard by the planning committee this week.

The HSE said plans for six two-bed apartments and four three-bed townhouses in Alexandra Road would be a 'major hazard' due to the pipeline running along the footpath in front of the site.

However, in 2011 the proposed residential scheme was granted consent despite the pipeline and HSE raised no objections for the same current proposal of 10 homes.

Councillor Ian Jones said the site was an 'eyesore' and believed approval should be given for the houses.

He said: "The pub was knocked down around five years ago and it's been left empty since so it's become an eyesore.

"If the gas pipeline was important then there would've been an objection for the houses which are already there rather than just this one site. Hundreds of houses have been built in that area over the last three years so I can't understand what the difference is now."

The proposed development, close to Tipton Leisure Centtre, will be built in a single L-shaped block.

A shared parking area would serve the apartments with individually allocated garages and drives serving the houses.

According to council papers, a nearby resident also supported the development of the site due to previous fly tipping taking place and the empty land being left an "eyesore".

School expansion to bring in 200 pupils

MORE than 200 pupil places are set to be created as part of a major expansion at a Black Country primary school.

Victoria Park Primary School in Smethwick wants to build seven new classrooms to become a three-form entry.

Two new teaching blocks would be added to the school on Ballot Street, under plans which have been lodged with Sandwell Council. The borough has been under increasing pressure to provide more school places in recent years due to a baby boom and rising immigration.

A total of 210 new places would be made available while the car park would also be extended to provide room for 79 new spaces. The bold move would mean the school would have three classes per year group. It currently has around 450 pupils.

Smethwick councillor Richard Marshall said the boost in school places is crucial for the town. He said: "Smethwick has been identified as the area in the Midlands most in need of school places.

Immigration

"We are right on the border with Birmingham and there are lot of people who move wanting the benefits of the big city but not wanting to pay big city prices.

"We also get a lot of immigration so are crying out for these new places. The school is not in the best position for expansion but at least we are going to get something."

A planning report to committee members said: "The applicant is applying for single and two-storey extensions to the main school building which would create seven new classrooms and provide school places for 210 children. The proposal also includes an extension to an existing car park to create 79 car parking spaces and related improvements."

Members of the council's planning committee are set to visit the site before deciding whether the expansion should go ahead.

The proposed expansion of Victoria Park Primary comes after the opening of the new Q3 Academy in Great Barr in September. The academy, in Langley, Oldbury, was the first new school to be built in Sandwell in a decade and will eventually take in more than 1,500 pupils.

Fundraising to the tune of £1,500

Alexis Strong and Cariss Evans, front, with supporters and event organisers

A WOMAN who had an undiagnosed brain tumour the size of a peach for six years has raised £1,500 for the charity that helped her start dancing again.

Alexis Strong, aged 31, of Rowley Regis, was diagnosed with a brain tumour in June 2016. She underwent surgery to remove the tumour that August at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

The 4.5cm x 4.5cm tumour was found after Alexis underwent tests on her eyes. She had previously complained to doctors over symptoms that included headaches, earaches and blurred vision in her left eye.

The line-dancing instructor raised £1,500 in a dancing event at Quarry Bank Conservative Club in aid of the Brain Tumour Charity.

She said: "When they found the tumour, they said that because of its size I'd probably had it for about six years.

"I was lucky that the tumour was benign and that they were able to remove all of it. I wanted to hold the line dancing event to raise awareness of brain tumours and the symptoms so people know what to look out for."

Also present was fellow brain tumour patient, former college friend of Alexis and community ambassador for the charity, Cariss Evans, a nurse aged 32, of Dudley.

The money raised will now provide seven days of research into brain tumours to help someone suffering with the condition.

Spellar calls for arthritic workers to get support

A SANDWELL MP has called on the Government to provide more support for workers with arthritis to help close the 'arthritis employment gap'.

Arthritis is the number one cause of pain, disability and working days lost, according to Arthritis Research UK, which highlighted the issue to John Spellar MP at a recent parliamentary briefing. Following the Government's Improving Lives consultation on employment support for disabled people, John Spellar is calling on leaders to ensure that people with arthritis have the support to stay at work for longer.

He said: "It's clear how enormous the impact of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions is on our local communities.

"Over 50,000 residents are living with back pain, a leading cause of sickness absence, in Sandwell right now – 16 per cent of local people.

"The ability to work is something that we often take for granted, but I've learned today that for those living with arthritis this can be difficult. But with the right support and flexibility many people are able to work."

"That's why I'm supporting Arthritis Research UK's 'Work Matters to Me' campaign, putting this vital issue on the map. The Government must ensure that there is a level playing field so that people with arthritis who are able to work have the right support to remain and return to work."

Arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions like back pain affect one in six people. Dr Liam O'Toole, chief executive officer at Arthritis Research UK, said: "I'm delighted that John Spellar MP is supporting our campaign."

To find out more visit www.arthritisresearchuk.org/arthritis-information/arthritis-and-daily-life/work-and-arthritis.aspx.

More to moths than you think

IF you thought moths were just annoying insects you had to keep away from your wardrobe, think again!

Natural history expert, Patrick Clement will be explaining his passion for moths at next Tuesday's meeting of the West Bromwich Institute, starting at 7.30.

And there will be butterflies too in this illustrated talk which takes place at the Central Library, West Bromwich High Street, entrance via the rear entrance, price £3.

Sewer collapse-hit road is reopened

A STREET which was shut for four weeks after a hole opened up in the road has now re-opened.

Franchise Street in Wednesbury, near Ikea, was blocked following a sewer collapse beneath the road.

The closure impacted on the Cottage

Planning row stalls revamp of glassworks

A MAJOR restoration of an historic glassworks is shrouded in uncertainty after bosses at a skip hire firm based there said they would not leave the site unless an alternative place is found for them.

A planned multi-million pound redevelopment of the Chance Glassworks in Smethwick, which would see homes and shops built, has been held up by a planning row.

No 1 Skip Hire was told it must leave the site when its application to continue operating was denied by Sandwell Council last year.

It was given until April to move but the firm has launched an appeal against the decision, requesting to be given two years to leave. The company has also threatened to take the council to the High Court over the initial decision to refuse planning consent.

Bosses say 18 jobs would go if the firm is forced to stop trading. They insist they have no plans to leave unless a suitable site in Sandwell is provided for them. The company operates on an acre of land on the Spon Lane site.

Roger Page, of planning agent Page Swinford, which is acting on behalf of No 1 Skip Hire, said the company wants to be treated fairly.

He said: "Our client wishes to remain on the site until it is feasible to relocate and it is for Sandwell Council to find alternative sites."

Regeneration boss Councillor Paul Moore said the authority had offered the company 'a number of alternative sites'. "Our door is always open to them," he added.

Dipping in with start of sessions

WOMEN aged 18 and over are encouraged to come along to West Bromwich Leisure Centre's female-only swim sessions which are taking place every Tuesday from 1-2pm.

The centre has teamed up with This Girl Can, a campaign funded by Sport England and the National Lottery which celebrates active women of all shapes and sizes doing their bit to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

There will be two female activators poolside, encouraging participants to feel body-confident and overcome the fear of judgment that stops many women from joining in. To register your interest in the sessions, contact the centre today on 0121 580 6430 or join in the conversation using #ThisGirlCanSwim.

Village destination for town ramblers

WEST Bromwich Ramblers are off on six and eight mile routes around the village of Kinver and Kinver Edge on Sunday. People need to meet at West Bromwich Town Hall, High Street for a 9am departure. Call 0121 358 6591.

Fundraising push to help get Sam on feet

Sam with family and entertainers

A FINAL fundraising push to help a five-year-old boy walk got under way in Sandwell.

Sam Fellows, from Wednesbury, suffers from diplegic cerebral palsy, which causes constant tightness in his muscles.

He has been told by top surgeons that he is ready to have a life-changing operation so he can walk. The youngster's mother Jen, 37, and father Simon, 42, are running the Sam's Dreams campaign with the aim of raising £35,000 to cover the cost.

The fundraising total currently stands at £29,000 following a party night at the Springfield Social Club in Rowley Regis.

Mrs Fellows said: "It was a brilliant night. We had a number of singers including Phil Aaron and Paul Birch and we held an auction and raised about £1,500.

"It was lovely that people got involved and came to perform for free. We really appreciate everyone getting involved the best they can."

Sam turned on the Wednesbury Christmas lights last year. The campaign was also boosted after the auction of a Suzuki GSX 600 motorbike raised £975 for the pot.

Mrs Fellows said: "We are not far off now.

"We still have a number of events planned. There will be a tea dance a Wednesbury Town Hall and a spinathon to raise money for Sam's after care, physio and equipment."

She added: "Sam keeps talking about all the great things he'll be able to do after he has had the operation. We can't wait.

To donate visit www.gofundme.com/22p7ax7s.

Catalogue of errors that led to needless deaths

HOW can four family members go on holiday together and only one return home?

Among many questions that needed answering during the inquest into the Tunisia terror attack, that was the one which was crucial for the Black Country family ripped apart by the massacre.

Before 16-year-old Owen Richards, his 19-year-old brother Joel, uncle Adrian Evans, 49, and grandfather Patrick Evans, 78, travelled to Sousse in June 2015 they dubbed the trip 'a jolly boys' outing'.

However, the lads' holiday turned to horror in the space of just 12 hours.

It had offered a chance to celebrate Owen completing his GCSEs and for him, Joel, Adrian and Patrick to do what they loved to do – spend time together.

But the day after the family arrived in Tunisia, terrorist Seifeddine Rezgui's deadly plan was put into action.

A total of 38 holidaymakers, including 30 Britons, were murdered as the IS-inspired killer rampaged across the beach and through the Riu Imperial Marhaba hotel.

Rezgui robbed Owen of 'the three role models in his life, his three best friends' – that was how his mother Suzy Richards summed it up in tributes to her brother, father and son.

The six-week inquest on the deaths of Joel, Pat and Adrian, as well as Sue Davey who grew up in West Bromwich, which concluded this week, heard some shocking evidence.

Coroner Judge Nicholas Loraine-Smith recorded that the victims were all unlawfully killed and said security lapses in the run-up to Rezgui's cold-hearted massacre had played their part in the scale of the atrocity. Put simply, a catalogue of errors meant more people died than should have.

Tunisian police were described as being 'deliberately' slow to confront the gunman. A dossier compiled by a top judge in the north African country found security should have been able to intervene to take down Rezgui earlier than they did.

Counsel to the inquest Samantha Leek QC said on the very first day of the hearing: "The most compelling evidence comes from the Tunisian judge. His report says police units should have intervened and deliberately and unjustifiably slowed down to delay arrival at the hotel."

Later on in the course on the inquest, it emerged that security at hotels in the resort had also been criticised in a report for the British Government just months before the 38 people were killed.

Suzy Richards on a previous holiday with her sons Joel and Owen

Killer – gunman Seifeddine Rezgui

The chilling moment caught on camera

Mr Andrew Ritchie QC, representing 20 victims' families, told the inquest the Government was aware that IS-linked extremists had warned the terror group would target tourists after a video was posted on YouTube in December 2014.

Another of the problems in the run-up to the slaughter was the fact official guidance for tourists had not been updated to advise against all travel despite a terror attack on the Bardo Museum in Tunis in March 2015 that killed 24 people, including 57-year-old retired solicitor Sally Adey from Caynton, near Shifnal.

Before Owen, Joel, Adrian and Pat travelled to the country guidance said there was a 'high risk of terrorism' but did not directly discourage going there.

The full horror of the slaughter was set out in the harrowing evidence of Owen Richards, which was read out by Ms Leek.

Owen, just 16 at the time of the attack, fled the outdoor pool area with his family when he heard gunshots at the beach. They ran into the hotel complex after hearing the shots, but Rezgui gave chase and followed them inside ad cornered them near the indoor pool.

The inquest heard how Owen had bravely tried to shield his grandad. His statement read: "I could hear the footsteps coming back and I told [Grandad] to stay still and pretend to be dead.

"I closed my eyes again then the footsteps got closer and I heard a single bang right next to my ear – my ear went deaf. I was hugging Grandad and then I saw he had shot Grandad again.

"I saw what happened to Grandad then I could see Joel lying on the floor. "I crawled over to him but you could see in his eyes he wasn't alive – there was no life in his eyes.

"I could see Ade lying face down but there was just a pool of blood around him."

Owen managed to get away and only realised afterwards that he had also suffered a bullet wound.

Families of the victims, including Suzy Richards, are now planning to take civil action against the holiday firm Tui following the inquest verdict.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Advice on council apprenticeships

YOUNG people interested in an apprenticeship with Sandwell Council are invited to find out more at an event next week.

Anyone interested in starting their career with the council is urged to go along to the Council House in Oldbury on Thursday, March 9. The event, which runs from 2.30pm until 6.30pm in the council chambers, is open to young people aged 15 to 24 and their parents if they want to attend.

For help and more information about the event, call 0121 569 2099 or just turn up on the day.

Library opening up for entertainment

MUSIC, comedy and tales of horror are on the agenda this month and library staff are urging everyone to visit and catch the buzz at West Bromwich Central library.

The programme of entertainment gets underway this Friday, 3rd March, when young rising star Tom Heyes will be dropping in to perform a selection of popular songs by Frank Sinatra, Elvis and Dean Martin.

Cinema is next up on Friday 10th, with a special screening of The 39 Steps starring West Bromwich-born actress Madeleine Carroll.

Expansion plan for school dining hall

A SCHOOL is seeking permission to extend its current dining hall.

Kings Hill Primary School in Old Park Road, Wednesbury, which has 331 pupils on its roll, is looking to expand the hall because at the moment there is insufficient space to cater for all of the current pupils.

Plans reveal that the extension will adjoin the school's current dining hall and will measure 37 square metres.

Walsall Council planning officers have not yet issued their decision.

Talks at library from Spakemon to Slasher

A RANGE of events will be hosted at West Bromwich Central Library in the coming weeks.

On February 28 Barry Harper presents stories from his acting career, then on March 7 Billy Spakemon will read poetry.

Historian Keith Hodgkins gives a talk on March 14, and on March 21 Chris Smith tells of the Tipton Slasher.

All events run from 2pm to 3.30pm. Entry is free.

Bard play at Manor

THE Festival Players Theatre Company is visiting West Bromwich to perform one of Shakespeare's plays. The Merry Wives of Windsor will be staged at Manor House Museum in Hall Green Road on May 29 from 5pm. Email museumarts_tourism@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 588 2985.

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COUNTY NEWS

15pc increase in temporary posts

TEMPORARY posts in the West Midlands rose by 15 per cent in 2016, according to a study.

Research by the Association of Professional Staffing Companies revealed permanent vacancies also increased, up five per cent year-on-year to January. There was a particular rise in temporary posts in the legal and IT sectors.

Julie Selby, of APSCo, said: "After months of increased optimism across the West Midlands, professional job availability in the temporary market has risen once again."

Mixed results on business rates

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce says there will be winners and losers when the new business rates revaluations kick in next month.

The region's seven metropolitan borough councils will keep all business rates revenue generated from April 1 when the existing revenue support grant from central Government stops.

Overall West Midlands retail rates will go down 11 per cent on average, offices by 16 and industry seven.

Chamber chief Corin Crane said there was already a backlog of individual appeals against existing rates.

Charges increased by fire service

WEST Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority is increasing the amount residents pay in their council tax for the service by 1.99 per cent.

At a full meeting of the authority last week, members approved a budget for 2017/18 which means the fire service part of Band D Council Tax bills will go up by £1.11 for the year to £57.14.

In 2017/18, WMFRA will get £54.7m from the Government and will raise £39.4m via council tax.

Justice scheme cuts down on re-offending

A SCHEME tackling anti-social behaviour by young people across the West Midlands has helped 78 people since it started in 2014.

The Restorative Justice programme, run by the West Midlands Safer Travel Partnership, encourages young people to understand and pay back for what they have done, instead of prosecuting them.

Police said just one in 20 young people who have undertaken the programme have offended since.

Flying high on top list

COSFORD'S Royal Air Force Museum has been voted in the top 10 on a list of the UK's best-loved free attractions.

The museum came seventh out of 50 destinations. It's the highest-ranked museum on the list, compiled by National Express.

Harry takes to skies for solo flight

A TEENAGER took a giant step towards becoming a pilot when he undertook his first solo flight just days after he turned 16.

Harry Johnson, from Castle Bromwich, first flew at 13 and then began flying lessons a year later.

Young pilots are first able to fly solo on their 16th birthday but, stopped by poor weather, he undertook his first flight on Sunday, six days later than he had hoped. He said: "I have wanted to be a pilot for as long as I can remember.

"Flying has always captivated me and having the chance to fly solo so early is an opportunity that I'm extremely grateful for. I was apprehensive but the whole experience has only increased my passion for flying," the teenager added.

His father, Stuart, said: "I'm extremely proud of Harry completing his first solo flight so competently. I don't think I took a breath until he landed safely. I just know that he has the ability to realise his dream."

Harry will be able to gain his private pilot's licence next year and must have 45 hours of flying experience and have passed flying competency tests.

Harry has been taught to fly by Almat Aviation at Coventry Airport."

Young pilot Harry Johnson

Under-fire prison is 'rife with drugs and violence'

By Jack Averty

FEATHERSTONE Prison is rife with drugs and violence with inmates choosing to be locked up alone for months on end as they live in fear, a shock report has revealed.

An unannounced inspection by the prison inspectorate found 'very high' levels of violence and 'widespread' drug use.

Other findings include prisoners' showers in a 'disgraceful condition', inmates struggling to get access to 'basic essentials' including clean sheets and being forced to live in 'dirty' cells.

Peter Clarke, the chief inspector of prisons, said there had been a 'shocking worsening in standards' at the South Staffordshire jail, since it was last inspected in 2013. The Ministry of Justice, which runs the prison, described the decline as 'unacceptable'.

The biggest concern for Mr Clarke and his team was that of drug use and its links with violence and self-isolation. Around two-thirds of inmates told inspectors it was easy to get drugs, while more than one-fifth said they had developed a drug problem.

Psychoactive

The inspectors criticised the prison for doing 'too little' to reduce drug supply.

The report said: "The widespread use of psychoactive substances was a significant threat to the safety of prisoners. The prison wasn't monitoring the extent of the problem and didn't have a strategy or action plan to reduce drug availability."

This problem has led to a considerable increase in violence, the report added, with attacks against staff increasing the most. More than half of the inmates said they had felt unsafe, while levels of violence and intimidation were recorded as 'very high' and 'often related to drugs and debt'. A total of 37 per cent of prisoners said they felt unsafe at the time of the inspection, compared to just 15 per cent during the 2013 inspection.

Some prisoners resorted to self-isolation, asking to be locked up for nearly 24 hours a day. In some instances this lasted for months.

Great-great grand day out for the girls

Five generations together: Beverly, Sylvia, Sophie, Ethel and little Evie

A BLACK Country family took the opportunity to capture a unique picture of five generations on camera.

Beverly Hunter, aged 52, from Oldbury, said that she was keen on getting 'all the girls together' for the snap following the birth of her granddaughter Evie, who is just over 12 weeks old.

Beverly and her grandmother Ethel Butler, 96, mother Sylvia Brown, 75, and her daughter Sophie Hunter, 26, gathered to mark the occasion with baby Evie.

Beverly, who is a nursing assistant Highcroft Hospital in Erdington, said: "People kept saying to us that we should get together and get a picture and after Evie was born it seemed like the perfect opportunity. It's quite rare for someone to be a great-great grandmother."

Beverly said that her grandmother Ethel was still fit and active for her age. "She is a star," she said. "She is still living at home and has some help from her carers. She was over the moon to be able to see Evie. It was just a special moment."

Birthdays, Christmas and anniversaries are special occasions for the family to meet up.

Beverly added: "It is lovely when we all gather for parties and especially at Christmas time – it's a great atmosphere.

"We are lucky that we all actually live relatively close together still. I'm next door but one to my mom and my daughter is around the corner. Nan and mom used to live in the Smethwick area but for some time now we have been in Oldbury."

Watson says colleagues should stick with Corbyn

FED-UP West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson has attacked the Labour colleagues who left him to fight alone in the defence of under-fire Jeremy Corbyn.

The beleaguered Labour leader is facing renewed criticism after the party's defeat in Copeland, the first time in 35 years the Conservatives have defeated Labour in a by-election while the Tories were in power.

Mr Watson, Labour Deputy Leader, admitted when interviewed on ITV's Peston on Sunday show: "If I have some frustration it is that those people who are Jeremy's cheerleaders, and who made sure he was elected for the second time last September, should be sticking with their leader."

Mr Watson said Mr Corbyn – a 'conviction politician' – should talk with 'greater coherence and clarity when explaining what our mission is.'

He admitted that Copeland was a very bad result and conceded that 'working Britain', once their bedrock of support for his party, was turning away from it.

He called for Labour to present a policy on immigration that made sense and protected the rights of workers – especially those suffering the 'worst excesses of globalisation'.

Mr Watson continued: "It is easy to embody responsibility in politics but we all need to do a lot more. We are about to enter an unprecedented period of political and economic uncertainty with the Brexit negotiations."

● Donations – Page 8

Father's song in focus on bullies

A SINGER SONGWRITER has spoken out against bullying in a song endorsed by an anti-bullying campaign.

Daniel Trigger, from Bromsgrove, said he was moved to write on the subject of bullying after watching 'horror' viral videos on the internet.

The father of two teenage children has written the song 'Reach Out' to try and encourage young people to understand they are not alone.

The song has been endorsed by the Diana Award Anti-Bullying campaign.

Mr Trigger said: "I vividly remember last year, as I watched with horror viral videos on the internet showing young people being bullied, I considered how I would feel if that was our son." Proceeds from downloads – visit danieltrigger.bandcamp.com/track/reach-out – are sent to the campaign.

School unveils plans for teaching block

A PRIMARY school in Wednesbury has announced expansion plans.

A new two-storey teaching block will be built at The Priory Primary School, in Dorsett Road, under plans.

The plans have been lodged with Sandwell Council.

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Officers go in shake-up of services at authority

SANDWELL Council has brought in a new interim head of children's services as part of a major departmental shake-up triggered by a series of poor Ofsted ratings.

Jim Leivers has been appointed to head the department as the first stage of a Government-appointed trust's plans to improve the authority's failing children's services.

It comes as the council announced the departure of two top officers. Director of children's services Matthew Sampson and director for children and families Sharon Moore have both stood down with immediate effect.

Mr Leivers left his job as chief executive of North East Lincolnshire Council in March 2004, following a damning report by auditors which criticised the council's management and finances. Then in 2015 as Oxfordshire County Council's director for children, education and families, he apologised to 373 girls and boys who the authority had failed to identify as victims of sexual exploitation.

It followed the results of a serious case review into why it took Oxfordshire Council so long to respond to child sexual exploitation. He also apologised on behalf of his department for not offering better to support to teenager Jayden Parkinson, who was murdered in December 2013.

Jan Britton, chief executive of Sandwell Council, said: "Mr Jim Leivers has been appointed as interim director of children's services and a new director of children and families will be appointed in due course."

Clothing store opens its doors

A CLOTHING store has opened inside Poundland in Dudley, making it the 71st store to open in the country. The shop, PEP&CO, offers women's, men's and kids' fashion.

PEP&CO's managing director, Adrian Mountford, is anticipating that the new Dudley shop-in-shop will have a huge impact for Dudley's fashion-conscious shoppers.

Adrian said: "We might be a new brand, but we're one that customers love once they find us. By bringing PEP&CO to Poundland in Dudley, we're giving people access to the brand much more rapidly than we could on our own.

"The combination of PEP&CO's design and style credentials, will help create a brand new option that helps mums on a budget."

Homes plan lined up for approval

FIVE homes could be built near Cradley Heath train station.

The three-storey properties have been earmarked on Station Street and were recommended for approavl by Sandwell Council this week.

Dog thug given lifetime ownership ban

Footage shows Cheshire lashing out

A THUG caught on CCTV attacking a dog in a lift has been banned from owning animals.

Richard Cheshire, from Thompson Oldbury, was taken to court following an RSPCA investigation into his brutal attack on his bull-terrier type dog.

Cheshire, aged 34, claimed in court to 'love animals' despite the 30 minutes of abuse he laid on his pet.

After a minute of spitting and kicking in a lift, he even gives the CCTV camera a thumbs-up.

Rafe Turner, prosecuting at Birmingham Magistrates Court, said: "What you see is the dog being thrown across the floor of the landing and struck at least twice and spat at."

Mr Turner said the dog ran into a lift to escape the suffering but Cheshire continued his attack even as the animal 'cowered and whimpered'.

Footage showed the shirtless Cheshire kick his cowering dog in the head and spit on his body before giving the camera a thumbs-up.

The RSPCA launched an investigation after being shown CCTV footage of the incident in a communal area of Cheshire's block of flats last September. Cheshire pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering and was banned for life from owning animals.

He was also handed a 12-month community order to perform 120 hours unpaid work and pay £385 court costs.

The RSPCA confirmed the dog, named Pablo, was not seriously hurt and will be rehomed.

Sukhdip Randhawa, defending, said Cheshire took the dog in as a stray just a week before. He said he suffered from anxiety and depression and used alcohol to cope with his problems.

Plan revealed for centre with Olympic-sized pool

A NEW leisure centre, featuring an Olympic-sized swimming pool, could be built in Smethwick, it has emerged.

Sandwell Council bosses have revealed plans for the centre as they said investment was badly needed in leisure facilities in the town.

A public consultation has been launched on the plans.

New leisure centres have been built across the borough in recent years but Smethwick has missed out on investment.

The council's leisure boss Richard Marshall, who is also a Smethwick councillor, said the plans were at an early stage.

He said several potential sites had been identified. Smethwick is currently home to the Harry Mitchell Leisure Centre, Thimblemill Baths and Hadley Stadium.

It is not yet known how much the new centre would cost but the council has held tentative discussions with Sport England over funding.

Leisure facilities in the south of the borough were criticised in an independent report last year and Councillor Marshall said a new building would be a much-needed boost.

Oldest

He said: "We are asking people if they are happy with the centres they have got and we will take it from there.

"We have got three centres in that area and they are really old and run-down. Smethwick is the only town in the whole of Sandwell which hasn't had a new leisure centre. They are some of the oldest properties and we are looking for ways to stop losing money. There is a need for investment, without a shadow of a doubt."

Calls were made for investment in crumbling swimming pools and leisure centres in the south of Sandwell following an inspection of the buildings.

Thimblemill Baths and Harry Mitchell Leisure Centre were both rated as 'poor' after an independent consultant was brought in to assess the condition of the buildings.

The findings led to suggestions that areas such as Smethwick and Oldbury had been left behind compared to other parts of the borough where brand new leisure centres have sprung up.

The consultation is due to run for another four weeks and can be viewed at www.sandwell.gov.uk/leisureconsultation

Cool Caine is able to save his father

Left, Caine Wildman, aged 14, with father Craig, centre, and, Indy, six, Jensen, five, and Vinnie, 11

A FATHER has told how his hero son saved his life after he suffered respiratory failure.

Craig Wildman was playing with his five-year-old son Jenson at their home in Moxley, Darlaston, when he passed out. Daughter Indy, six, was also with the pair at the time. The youngsters thought their father was playing a game, but when Caine, aged 14, arrived home early from school he saw that his father's lips had turned purple.

Caine, a pupil at Royal Sandwell Academy, performed CPR for 10 minutes on the 40-year-old before paramedics arrived. Caine then looked after his siblings. Kara, the children's mother and Craig's wife, was on her way home from work.

Craig was taken to hospital, where he spent three days in intensive care. He had suffered respiratory failure as a result of undiagnosed pneumonia on both lungs. Doctors insisted that if it wasn't for Caine's speedy and calm reactions, Craig might not have survived.

Craig, who works as a custodial manager at HMP Featherstone, said: "Caine wasn't supposed to be home because he had an after school club, but for some reason, this day it was cancelled. It must be fate. He got home at about 4.10pm, and the kids were sitting in front of the TV.

"He thought I was just lying down so went upstairs and got changed, but when he came downstairs he saw my lips were purple and my eyes had rolled back into my head.

"He phoned an ambulance and started performing CPR. They told him on the phone to open the door so the paramedics could get straight in. I didn't come round until I was in the back of the ambulance, but he was doing CPR on me for about 10 minutes. "I'm so grateful to Caine, he's my little hero. Well, maybe not so little, he's bigger than me now!"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Break-in attempt sees hall closed

WEDNESBURY Town Hall was closed after an attempted break-in. Crooks attempted to get into the building, on Holyhead Road, last Thursday. No major damage was reported.

However, phone lines were cut meaning the IT and payment systems were down temporarily. The town hall was closed while repairs were made.

The council said the lines are thought to have been cut by the would-be thieves believing it was wired to the burglar alarm. The incident happened overnight into Thursday and was reported to the police.

Concert to mark orchestra birthday

BLACK Country-based The People's Orchestra is celebrating its fifth birthday with a concert of musical theatre favourites.

Guest singers will join the 60-piece orchestra at West Bromwich Town Hall on April 1. They will perform hits from musicals such as The Lion King, Annie, Chicago and Mary Poppins.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are available at www.thepeoplesboxoffice.com

The People's Orchestra is an independent charity with members aged 18 to 75.

Ayckbourn plays new Rep offering

ALAN Ayckbourn's collection of five short plays, Confusions, is the next production from Oldbury Rep.

The plays are being performed at the theatre in Spring Walk, Langley, from March 4 to 11 at 7.30pm. This is the Rep's 78th season

Tickets for Confusions are £10, available by phone on 0121 552 2761 or in person from the box office on Monday evenings from 7.30pm, and on the Friday prior to opening night from 7.30pm.

Delays for motorists as water main bursts

MOTORISTS faced delays after a water main ruptured along a busy road in Bearwood.

The burst took place along the A4030 Bearwood Road on February 21, which partially blocked access along the road to drivers.

The road carries traffic from Smethwick and through Bearwood.

On the same day, motorists faced delays on the A461 Wood Green Road in Wednesbury because of roadworks on the M6.

Bat truths revealed

KEVIN Reynolds, chairman of the Staffordshire Bat Group reveals the truth behind the myths of the creatures when he visits the West Bromwich Institute next week. His talk is on March 7, at 7.30, in the West Bromwich Central Library. Admission via the rear entrance, is £3.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

OK, so for cinematic just ready very boring

THE BBC's latest big-budget costume drama has attracted some controversy, with viewers reportedly switching off after 10 minutes because they could not understand the mumbling characters.

Well, I managed half an hour before switching off because it was very dull.

Perhaps I should have paid more attention to the previews, where the words "CGI" and "cinematic" seemed to figure heavily. I do wonder whether these words are a secret industry code for "very boring".

Whenever a programme or film is promoted on the basis of its computer-generated imagery, or CGI, it always seems to be far more about showing off the technical prowess than coming up with an entertaining story.

And cinematic just seems to be a euphemism for extremely slow. Endless shots of folk just standing around looking broody, or exchanging knowing glances at one another. Not actually doing anything, just looking like they might.

We can only speculate on what life might have been like in a Nazi-occupied Britain, but I really doubt it would have led to a notable increase in people going around glaring at one another, or moodily dragging on cigarettes in doorways before petulantly throwing the butt away.

The bloke I really blame for all this is Inspector Morse. Before he came along, detective dramas were slick, tightly edited, fast-paced and – exciting. Then when he came along it was all street scenes, random students walking about or riding bikes, with a bit of crime in between.

Maybe next time, somebody could come up with a drama that is a little bit less "cinematic", but a bit more entertaining?

❒❒❒

A UNIVERSITY in Budapest has carried out research into people aged 18 to 24, and concluded that separating them for any length of time from their mobile phones resulted in symptoms akin to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Yep, you've read that right. There is a section of society which finds a few hours without being able to check their credit score or stare at a cute cat video as harmful to them as others do enduring some of the most unimaginable hardships in the battlefield.

The study found that three-quarters of those who took part showed signs of stress, including fidgeting and scratching. Of course, it would be wrong to tar all young people with the same brush, and we must remember how many of this generation have served their country with courage and dignity in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But the fact that millions are so attached to their electronic comfort blanket that they can't bear to separated for a few hours is terrifying. Let's hope we never need to call them up for another war.

No Mr Blair, this time people did know how to vote

Lucy Brown who was asked for a cash donation after an uninspiring date

Tony Blair is calling for people to now change their mind over Brexit

Lord Newby says some peers do not have the 'stomach' to delay Brexit legislation

Thanks for advice Tony, now shove it

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THIS is what His Serene Magnificence Tony Blair says about Britain voting to leave the EU: "The people voted without knowledge of the true terms of Brexit. As these terms become clear, it is their right to change their mind." Now, apply those same words to the 1975 referendum when Britain voted to stay in the Common Market. Back then, we certainly voted without knowledge of the true terms. We thought we were joining a free-trade area but were gradually swallowed into an undemocratic and unaccountable superstate. We had the right to change our mind and in last year's referendum we did so. The difference between the 1975 and 2016 referendums is that in 1975 we had no idea what the EU would become. Now we know exactly what it's about. So thanks for the advice, Tony, now shove off. Aren't you supposed to be bringing peace to the Middle East or something?

LORD Newby says some peers do not have the 'stomach' to delay the Government's Brexit legislation. Stomach? I suspect what's missing is a little lower in the anatomy. The House of Lords knows that if it frustrates the will of the people, then the people might start asking why we need 850 Lords in the first place. Might things be greatly improved by having 100, 50, or none at all?

A READER says he likes the term "de-extincting," as applied to woolly mammoths, and wonders what other things might be de-extincted. He suggests good manners, respect for elders and Beer at Home means Davenports. Any other suggestions for the de-extinction list?

INCIDENTALLY, good luck with de-extincting respect for elders. The snag is that it has probably never existed. Who was it who said: "The children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise"? It was Socrates, writing about 2,500 years ago. No change there.

THINGS to do on a rainy day. The Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford has a folklore exhibition featuring "a collection of objects highlighting folk traditions of Oxfordshire including a Morris dancer's outfit, whit horns, lighting appliances and a lace maker's dick pot."

A READER asks whether I have any strong views of the Church of England's latest furore over same-sex marriages. Not really. It is hard to get worked up about the opinions of people who believe, without any evidence, that some benevolent sky-god is watching over us. I don't really care what superstitious people think about God, the Devil and heaven and hell, so why should I fret about their views on genitalia? As far as we can tell, the Church of England is morphing into a social club for people who just want to be sweet to each other, with none of that nasty, old-fashioned stuff about sin. More than 20 years ago I forecast the creation of the Church of Jesus Christ The Really Nice Bloke. I am sure it has a great future.

AN Appeal Court ruling this week suggests the law may soon permit civil partnerships, currently restricted to same-sex couples, for heterosexual couples, too. But could the whole process be overtaken by the astonishing rise of gender rights? There is growing pressure for people to be able to "self-identify" their gender. Lawmakers in California have proposed a "non-binary" choice for people who wish to be neither male nor female on official documents including birth certificates and driving licences. In a world where people can be any gender they choose, or none, any couple could qualify for a civil partnership simply by claiming to be the same sex.

MEANWHILE, one US university already offers a choice of six gender identities for new students: male, female, trans male/trans man, trans female/trans woman, gender queer/gender non-conforming and "different identity". Confused? It has hardly started. An online guide offers no fewer than 81 definitions of sexual possibilities and gender-identity issues. Something for everyone?

THANKS for your continuing accounts of truly awful first dates. A reader tells me of an over-confident lad who took his girlfriend on a hot-air balloon flight and romantically proposed to her at 2,000 feet. She turned him down. They were stuck in that balloon basket for the next 45 minutes with the pilot and by the time it landed the mood on board was positively polar. Moral: always plan your escape route.

LUCY Brown, a London-based clothes designer, had an uninspiring date through an online dating agency. She decided to let the man down gently with a text explaining she was not interested in a second meeting. She was astonished when the 'normal and sweet' man replied saying he was devastated and asking for 'a contribution for the drinks I spent on you'. She sent him £42.50 and made an equal donation to a donkey sanctuary. And they say romance is dead.

A READER writes: "I purchased a hanging basket of spring flowers this weekend. The instructions say: Keep out of draughts."

TALKING POINT

Don't judge people by the way they look

I HAVE never really been a follower of fashion, as people who know me will testify. I wear what I feel comfortable in and cannot see the point of paying £50 for shoes or trousers when pairs for £10 or £20 do the same job, particularly as we are meant to be living in times of austerity.

That does not mean I don't care about my appearance. And, of course I have no problem with people wishing to pay over the odds if that's what they want. That's their prerogative, and if they can afford it, why not?

But remember, a trend is just that. Weeks/months down the line, everyone will be wearing something different.

Take holey jeans, for example. What are those all about? During a weekend away, I saw hordes of youngsters wearing these.

It was ironic there was a town nearby called Patcham – the sort of thing my mum would have done if I had worn holey jeans!

While on the same break I was served in one shop by a girl with hair of so many colours she looked like she had bathed in a vat of Skittles – and could have been the inspiration for a McFly hit. And she had so many facial piercings it was like talking to a pin cushion.

But joking aside (and I really am) it is these kind of attitudes and prejudices we need to stamp out.

So often we hear of girls pressured into being a certain size, or bullies hiding behind social media anonymity, all because their targets have different looks or tastes or beliefs to that of their own.

The shop girl I encountered was most helpful and pleasant, as one would expect.

Isn't it time we looked beyond people's appearances, be it tattoos, dress sense, size or whatever it may be? Let them be comfortable in their own skin. The old adages of 'each to their own' and 'leave people be' spring to mind.

We cannot expect everyone to look or dress identically, follow the same football teams or be fans of the same kind of music, television programme or comedian, for example. Variety is the spice of life, they say, and the world is richer for it.

Some people like, and are even turned on by, body art, for instance. And, while that may be not be my cup of tea, it does not mean I would have any less time for anyone with a scorpion inked on their back or some obscure Hebrew inscription on their arm.

Employers take note. I'm sure many job opportunities go begging because a candidate does not look the part, or has gaping holes in their ear lobes. It doesn't necessarily mean they cannot do the jobs.

Don't be intimidated or put off by these people, they are human beings after all. Oh, and they have feelings too.

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Marching on towards Brexit

GINA Miller, remember her? As she and her campaign to derail Britain's EU unshackling recedes even further into distant memory we can all look forward to the public's will finally being honoured in little more than a month's time.

The aching doubts caused by both court rulings in favour of Parliament's right to sanction our departure from the EU have now been put to bed thanks to the safe passage of the Government's EU (notification of withdrawal) Bill, secured with 494 votes to 122. Some 54 Labour rebels and the SNP accounted for the majority of dissenters.

Of course, the many Lib Dem and Labour peers still occupying the House of Lords will have something to say, but talk is cheap and there is no greater force in British politics than our onward march to the Brexit door.

Nowhere is the implausibility of Britain remaining in the EU beyond 2019 clearer than in the madness of recent remainer behaviour.

One person bereft of humour, and all his other senses, we suspect is Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow who called for President Trump to be barred from addressing Parliament, a breach of his remit to say the least.

Mr Bercow may have scored some easy points with adoring liberals, but in case he had not noticed, Britain is in the process of restoring its relationship with her closest ally. This grand gesture, serves only to undermine Britain's strategic position. Which side is he playing on? Whatever it is, it won't be conducted from the speaker's chair for much longer.

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

Not our problem

THE American people voted in their new president by a majority. He had said what he would do if voted into office. It's up to the American people to demonstrate if they are not happy.

As I see it the demonstrations in this country are not so much to do with President Trump as a way of getting him to think again about a trade deal with this country when we leave the EU. What better way than insult him with no state visit and demonstrations by people who want us to stay in the EU and will stoop to any trick to achieve this.

B LAWLEY
Bilston

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Sport's dynamics have now changed

IF you take heading out of football, what next, not being able to tackle?

I can understand the reasoning behind the Astles' concerns, but look at rugby, what's the wear and tear on a forward? How much damage does a boxer get to the head?

But being of a certain age I can well remember the case ball, and the thud of it when it was soaking wet.

However, today's balls are light, with no lace, and do not absorb the wet so I think the dynamics of the game have changed.

Football is a contact sport, but unless you are going to play it like five-a-side rules, then I just can't see how we are going to maintain the game in its present form.

If there are no headers then corners become pointless, and you may as well make the penalty area a no go area for any player except the goalkeeper.

Yes we need a full inquiry into the dangers, but it won't be long before the beautiful game will be just a memory.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

Wheel scary for workers

ON seeing the photo online of an accident in Tettenhall recently, it reminded me of an incident 55 years ago.

I worked for Tettenhall UDC as the road sweeper working on the area around the corner of Church Walk.

We heard someone yelling. We turned to see, waving his arms, the driver running after the large freewheeling back wheel off his digger tractor, rolling towards us at speed.

We scattered as the wheel passed us, then mounted the kerb and ploughed into the corner of the iron railing, thankfully stopping the wheel from bounding on down onto the lower green.

There was a very red faced and out of breath driver who had chased it down the Rock.

I can laugh at it now, but it was quite scary at the time as I recall.

KEN MORETON
Draycott

Take action on landlords

FINALLY I hope the Government will step up and take action to make landlords accountable who think it's okay to let tenants live in appalling conditions.

These tenants live in fear because if they speak out they will end up on the streets., while landlords think it's acceptable for themselves to live in luxury. Also these greedy, selfish individuals are creating slum areas all over the country.

I just hope this problem is sorted out sooner rather than later for all concerned and the penalty fits the bill.

JUDITH FISHER
Tividale

Don't ignore the warning signs.

If you've been suffering from tummy troubles such as **diarrhoea, bloating, discomfort or anything else that just doesn't feel right for three weeks or more,** it could be a sign of cancer.

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£500,000 donations made by Mosley to MP Watson

DEPUTY Labour leader Tom Watson has received £500,000 in donations from Max Mosley over the past year, according to official records.

The latest register of MPs' interests shows a donation worth £300,000 from the controversial former Formula One boss this month. It was made via the party to support Mr Watson's office, and followed a £200,000 donation from Mr Mosley last June.

Mr Mosley also donated £40,000 to support the West Bromwich East MP's bid to become Jeremy Corbyn's deputy in 2015. Mr Watson said: "I'm proud to call Max Mosley a friend and I'm delighted he has made a financial contribution to Labour. His generous donation will help the party develop strong policies for our next manifesto."

Mr Mosley and Mr Watson have been key figures in pushing for greater regulation of the Press.

Sizeable

The Mosley-funded group Impress, which was set up in the wake of the Leveson inquiry recommendations, received recognition as a state-backed press regulator last October. Impress also received a sizeable donation from Harry Potter author JK Rowling.

The decision to recognise Impress set in motion a possible chain of events that could herald the death knell of the newspaper industry.

News outlets that refuse to join up with Impress could be forced to pay the costs of claimants who make legal complaints against them – even if the paper wins the case. The power is afforded under Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act, which Culture Secretary Karen Bradley must decide whether or not to trigger over the coming weeks.

Hinge maker moves to new £3.5m base

A BLACK Country manufacturer has doubled the size of its base as part of a £3.5 million expansion.

Hinge maker A Perry & Co will create jobs and providing a boost for the region after moving to a larger site – next door to its home for more than a half a century in Old Hill, Cradley Heath.

Five jobs have been created with scope for more workers to be taken on in the future. The new 90,000 sq m warehouse and distribution base also includes a two-storey office space for a call centre and administration, two large manufacturing units and a loading yard.

The firm, which was founded in 1953, is the largest supplier of hinges, fasteners and fixings in the UK.

Managing director Guy Perry said: "Here at A Perry our confidence is high as we continue to grow and invest for the future."

Church house now community centre

Rev Ayi Samson Ake, co-ordinator June Whitehouse and fundraiser Yvonne Wilkes

A CHURCH house which has been empty for decades has undergone a major revamp to become a community centre.

The George Road Community Church in Oldbury decided it was time to bring the property back into use and saw it as an opportunity to support community groups.

It has stood next to the church since the 1880s and had once been lived in by its caretaker but has been empty for years.

The house has been given a makeover and now includes activity areas, meeting rooms, an office and disabled toilets. It had to be completely gutted and re-plastered.

The centre was opened by Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Julie Webb.

Church leaders launched a consultation two years ago on how to best utilise the building.

Responses favoured an area where community groups could meet on a regular basis.

The project was able to go ahead after the church received funding from the Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust, which supports communities living near landfill sites.

Church leader June Whitehouse said: "The house was once used by the caretaker but nobody had lived in it for decades and it was falling into disrepair. This is a great venue and we are already seeing lots of interest from the community and professionals who are keen to use it."

Garden waste collections under way

GARDEN waste collections in Sandwell are under way in time for spring gardening. The collections will run until November. Garden waste is collected every two weeks. Residents can see when their collections are by logging onto 'When's my bin day' on the council website.

Councillor David Hosell, cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "Gardeners will welcome the return of this service so that they can get started with vital garden clean-up work before the growing season gets into full swing.

"We urge people to recycle garden waste by putting it in their green bins – including grass cuttings, shrubs and hedge clippings, plants and weeds, as well as bark and old flowers."

Residents can access the bin day calendar by visiting www.sandwell.gov.uk/binday and entering their postcode. If residents have large amounts of heavy garden waste then it can be split over several collections or taken to the tip at Shidas Lane in Oldbury, which is open every day from open 8am-4pm.

Residents are reminded that garden waste should be loose inside the bin and old plant pots cannot be recycled and should be placed in the grey household waste bin.

Find out more about apprenticeships

YOUNG people interested in an apprenticeship with Sandwell Council are invited to find out more next week. The council will be taking on hundreds more apprentices over the coming years.

The open event is for 15-to-24-year-olds and takes place in the council chambers at the Council Chamber, Oldbury, from 2.30 to 6.30pm on March 9.

Romance is in the air for couples at library

ROMANCE was in the air among the books at Tipton Library.

More than 100 couples brought in wedding pictures as part of a focus on love during Valentine's week.

Library visitors were treated to romantic-themed activities including flower-arranging and serenading from singer and library volunteer, Tom Heyes. He performed a repertoire of love songs, including many Frank Sinatra hits.

But the main event was the exhibition of wedding photographs, which was the idea of the local history society –and it has proved so popular that the pictures will be archived when the exhibition closes.

Among them was a picture of Robert Williams, aged 68, and wife Jan, 69, of Dora Road, West Bromwich, who tied the knot at Melrose Abbey in Scotland in 2003 – the first ever marriage ceremony to be held in the monastery ruins.

Brian and Pat Dutfield, who wed in 1962

Gundi and Malcolm Jones of Tipton

Alan and Thelma Wainwright, Donovan and Isabel Beebee, Rob and Jan Williams

Snow

"There was no roof on it and the heavens had opened. But just as our wedding was due to start the rain stopped and the sun came out," said Robert.

Isabel and Donovan Beebee, both 79, of Galton Close, Tipton, celebrated 60 years of marriage on Boxing Day.

The couple can be seen picking their way through several inches of snow outside Princes End Baptist Chapel on their wedding day.

Isabel said: "It started snowing on Christmas Eve and it didn't stop. They needed a shovel to clear the path to the chapel."

September 12, 1981, was an extra special day for Alan and Thelma Wainwright, of Bloomfield Road, Tipton. "It was a lovely day," said Thelma, 72. The exhibition even had a quirky American section featuring wedding pictures of couples from the US with the surname Tipton.

Jeff Worsey, chairman of Tipton Library Friends' Group, was contacted out of the blue by the Tipton Family Association of America, a group that seeks to connect American people called Tipton and their descendants. John Parrish, who set up the group, and whose mother was named Tipton, visited the Black Country town last year and plans a return visit this year.

"When I told him about the wedding exhibition, he put out the call to members who sent over some photographs for us to feature, including one of his son's wedding," said Jeff.

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Thread letter day for famous faces

Goldie and Noddy Holder feature on the tapestry

FROM Olympic swimmer Ellie Simmonds to music legend Noddy Holder and to fashion icon Erin O'Connor.

The famous faces of Walsall have been threaded in to a stunning tapestry by a team of volunteers.

The 11 unique tapestries represent each area of the borough, picturing events, places and names.

Each area of the borough had its own story to tell, be it the Pelsall poppies, meeting under the clock in Willenhall Market Place or the excitement of when Cilla Black came for the first Blind Date wedding. The tapestries also tell the story of celebrities including Paralympian Simmonds, Slade star Holder, musician Goldie, actress Meera Syal and Judas Priest lead singer Rob Halford.

They also include amateur athlete Glyn Marston, who has raised £120,000 for charity over the years.

He said he was honoured to have his name embroidered, even though it was spelled incorrectly – as Marsden.

He is included in the tapestry devoted to Willenhall fundraisers, featuring an image of the late Christmas-crazy Hilda Creaney whose festively decorated home raised thousands for charity.

Glyn's name and those of Reg and Anne Wrighton, who for years organised an annual old folks dinner for the Willenhall community, are stitched around the edge of Mrs Creaney's embroidery.

Mr Marston, aged 54, said: "It's the gesture that counts."

"To say that I am honoured is a great understatement, I can't believe that my name is alongside Mr and Mrs Wrighton and Hilda Creaney," he added.

"Mrs Creaney's fundraising, in particular, is legendary in Willenhall.

Thrilled

"I'd heard about the tapestry, which is a fantastic project, but it never occurred to me that I would get a mention. I was choked when I found out."

He added: "I did notice that my name was spelled wrongly but I haven't raised it with anyone - I'm just thrilled to see it placed alongside such great Willenhall people."

Mr Marston is currently gearing up to take part in a gruelling 1,400km cycling race from London to Edinburgh and back again at the end of July.

He will wear a jersey featuring the flag of his home town Willenhall throughout the journey, which cyclists have to complete in under 100 hours.

The father-of-two has been fundraising since 1993 when he quit smoking. On this occasion he will be raising money for the charities St Giles Walsall Hospice, Macmillan Support, Cancer Research UK and Harry Will Walk.

He is also planning to cycle across Europe later this year in aid of charity.

Each one of the Silver Thread tapestries took at least 2,000 hours to sew, a task shared by an army of volunteers from the local community.

It was the inspiration of Walsall Council's creative development team, which was disbanded last year. People came from far and wide during the first three months of the year-long project to have their say on what should feature in the tapestries.

Artist Hunt Emerson turned their stories into illustrations which were then stitched into more than 12 square metres of fabric.

Each square features a different area of the borough, capturing Walsall's living history and diverse geographical communities. It is currently on a tour of the West Midlands.

Actress Meera Syal

Rob Halford of Judas Priest

Brownhills model Erin O'Connor

Paralympian Ellie Simmonds

From left, Colette Mumford, Glyn Marston and Sheila Fawkes

The Blind Date wedding, which Cilla Black attended, is depicted

Advertisement

Jenny's Ultra Suction Solution five years on

JENNY (not her real name) was afraid to laugh in public and tried to mask the problems with her false teeth by using copious amounts of fixative.

"In the end it was ridiculous, I was fighting a losing battle," she says. After seeing Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), she was prescribed the non-invasive Ultra Suction dentures more than five years ago. Extolling their virtues, Jenny adds: "I am perfectly happy with the result and I now never have to think about my teeth."

How do they work? A small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a 'sucking' vacuum between the denture and gums.

Jacqueline Turgoose – after a lifetime of teeth troubles she finally found a solution at North Street Dental and Implant Clinic

Final showdown

- *Implants provide stabilisation solution*
- *Steak meal treat to celebrate new teeth*
- *'Decision worth every penny'*

AS a ten year old, Jacqueline Turgoose admits she was a bit of a tomboy with not a care in the world. But an incident with a cricket bat in a feisty game of rounders and subsequent trips to the "horrible" school dentist appeared to change things forever.

Brought up on the outskirts of the market town of Wetherby, money was tight and her family just couldn't afford a proper rounders bat.

"So we used a cricket bat and I got too close to it and as it came back was hit in the mouth. I remember it well," she recalls.

The game where she played backstop and lost a front tooth is etched into her childhood memories. "I had to go to the school dentist and he was horrible. I was just ten with a single tooth on a plate. It was so big you could tell it was false and it just didn't fit," says Jacqueline.

With the false tooth standing proud in her mouth she quickly became a target for bullying, though would-be tormentors soon met their match. "I was a toughie and having none of it," she recalls.

The cruel, verbal harassment "didn't last long" but the ill-fitting prosthetic was silently wreaking havoc in her mouth and her native teeth had become mobile and a lifetime's trouble began.

By the time she left school at 15 and started work as a waitress, aggressive gingivitis (gum disease) had set in and she'd lost the whole of her upper arch of teeth.

"The dentures still never fitted well. I could never eat an apple without cutting it up, meat was always hard to chew and when I laughed I instinctively put my hand in front of my mouth.

Teeth moved

"I also lost bottom teeth and hated going to the dentist. Truth is I was scared. The [false] teeth moved all the time and I'd go nowhere without the adhesive to stick them back in place. I didn't go anywhere without it.

"If I went out for a meal – I eventually gave up going out to restaurants – I'd have to get up from the table two or three times and visit the ladies to replace the glue. It was that bad.

"If my husband wanted to go out for something to eat, I'd say 'let's stay at home and I'll cook something nice'."

A youthful 70-something-year-old, Jacqueline, an avid Westerners' re-enactment fan, has finally resolved the life-long problems that compromised spontaneity, diet and her smile.

Five years ago she read an article in her local newspaper about the work of Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, principal of both North Street Dental and Implant Clinic and the Denture Clinic.

The article focussed on stabilising dentures and the incredible difference just two implants could make on a lower over-denture.

"It offered me hope that something could be done to help and I kept the article all this time. I couldn't afford to have my teeth done then, but I came into a little bit of money," she recalls.

Husband John adds: "I asked her if she was going to put it into an ISA and she said 'no, I'm going to get my teeth done.' It was a good decision and worth every penny." After an initial consultation with Steven, an appointment was made with practice implant dentist Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61575.

"I didn't know what to expect. I'd been told by an NHS dentist I'd lost too much bone in my jaw to have implants, but after Owain had seen me he said there was not a problem," says Jacqueline.

Traditional, high quality upper dentures were prescribed along with a removable lower over-denture, stabilised on two implants.

The results have been transforming. "They are the best teeth I've had in the whole of my life. The lower teeth are clicked on to the implants and the top fit perfectly," says Jacqueline.

Eat anything

Free from her denture adhesive, Jacqueline celebrated having her new teeth with a restaurant meal. "I had steak – I could never eat it – and it was wonderful," she recalls.

Her experience with the clinic? "Every member of staff was lovely. They were all so very kind," she adds.

And Jacqueline's teeth? "When I first saw them I cried, they were just so natural looking and I can eat anything now."

The Wild West heroine not afraid to laugh

AS a Wild West drifter John Turgoose and his trusty woman (wife Jacqueline) can be spotted in period garb at Westerners' Association events all over the country.

Devoted fans of the Old West – a time in late 1800s' American history – they enjoy country and western music and the re-enactment of period characters. Recently, John, a member of Smethwick's Oak Ridge Club, organised a fundraising event for the British Legion Poppy Appeal and in a single night raised £1,100.

Authentic dress, a fast draw competition and live country music helped to coin in the cash. "It's great fun and we do a lot for charity," says Jacqueline, "and now I can laugh without putting my hand over my mouth."

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Author to visit primary school

A CHILDREN'S author will be reading her book to pupils at a primary school.

Author Amanda Kehoe wrote TJ and His Wheelable Chair after being inspired by her son who has cerebal palsy.

She will be reading her book and then taking part in a question and answer session at Lightwoods Primary School in Oldbury.

The aim of the book is to teach children how to interact with those who have cerebal palsy, and to raise awareness of the cause itself. Cerebral palsy is the general term for a number of neurological conditions that affect movement and co-ordination.

Amanda said: "While there is a better awareness of disability, I have found a lot of children don't know how to react when they see my son.

"And there is a huge misconception with children who are non-verbal that they do not understand what you are saying to them," she added.

Scheme helps vulnerable faced with eating or heating choice

THOUSANDS of families across the Black Country have benefited from a scheme which helps ensure people do not have to choose between heating or eating.

The npower Fuel Bank scheme gives food bank users with pre-payment meters vouchers for gas or electricity. This enables households that have run out of energy to get the power back on within a few hours and keep the lights and heating on for around two weeks.

In the winter months, the value of the voucher is £49 and households can receive help regardless of whether or not they are npower customers. The scheme, which launched in the West Midlands in May last year at three food banks – B30, Smethwick and Kingfisher – has already issued around 2,600 vouchers.

Gareth Brown, director of Smethwick Church Action Network that manages Smethwick Foodbank, said: "The npower Fuel Bank scheme has provided those who receive an emergency food parcel with additional assistance that can make a real difference.

Emergency

"We are grateful that we can go beyond just the emergency assistance of a food parcel to really help people tackle the multiple issues that often cause the crisis in the first place."

Helen Gale, manager of the B30 Foodbank said: "This scheme really does help us to offer almost immediate support to those clients who find themselves faced with the awful choice of feeding themselves and their families or keeping warm."

The scheme is a partnership between npower, National Energy Action and The Trussell Trust, and now runs in 14 areas and 59 foodbank centres across the country.

Matthew Cole, head of policy & social energy at npower, said: "The npower Fuel Bank gets immediate help to people when they find themselves in a crisis. With three Fuel Bank areas, the West Midlands is one of the most active areas in the UK and on average this winter has been giving out one fuel voucher every 15 minutes."

Spring clean to spruce up park

A CAMPAIGN promoting the clean-up of public spaces will return this year.

The Big Clean Up in Sandwell sees residents and organisations get involved with litter-picking, graffiti removal, gardening and painting.

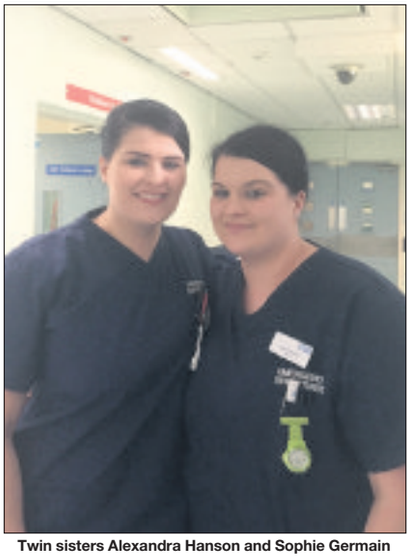
The campaign will launch with a community litter-pick at Victoria Park, Smethwick, on March 3.

Councillor David Hosell, cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "The Big Spring Clean is always popular with local people and organisations.

"We thank the thousands of people who've taken part in our previous campaigns.

"It's a great way to get people together with residents, community groups, faith groups, schools and businesses all supporting the campaign." Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/bigspringclean

Seeing double with nurses' sister act



Twin sisters Alexandra Hanson and Sophie Germain

PATIENTS visiting two Black Country Hospitals might think they are seeing double when they bump into twin sisters Alexandra and Sophie.

Both A&E nurses, Alexandra Hanson is based at Sandwell Hospital, while Sophie Germain is based at City Hospital. The siblings are not identical, but are difficult to tell apart and have left some of their fellow medics and patients confused over the years.

The sisters have always worked together closely, and were first employed at the Trust nine years ago.

Alexandra, from Wednesbury, said: "After we qualified as nurses, we worked in Sandwell Hospital on the same floor. Sophie would work the day shift and then I was on the night shift.

"I remember colleagues used to think I worked 24 hours."

When I came on my shift, doctors would ask me questions like 'have you not gone home yet?' or 'are you not tired? You look so fresh.' It was really funny to hear."

Sophie, from Sedgley, added: "There was one occasion when a patient came running up to me and hugged me. He said 'hello Alex, how are you?' I had to explain to him that I was Sophie."

After starting out as domestic workers, they then went on to university where they studied their nursing degree.

While studying, they worked extra hours as healthcare assistants. Alexandra said: "A&E is very fast-paced and you can see how quickly patients recover. It's a very rewarding job."

They now plan to continue training and progress to the next level in the next two years. The pair also provide support to students and newly qualified nurses.

Kennedy 'back home' for a special concert

WORLD-RENOWNED violinist Nigel Kennedy will make a triumphant return to his adopted home city of Birmingham with a special gala show at Symphony Hall.

The maverick Aston Villa-loving musician will combine his greatest hits and new works for this one-off performance. Kennedy will also perform music from other greats, from Bach to Hendrix. He will be accompanied by a host of special guests including Bulgarian composer and gadoulka virtuoso Georgi Andreev and world-class violinists Jean-Luc Ponty, Michael Guttman, Pieter Daniel.

Kennedy's unique talent and quirky, down-to-earth manner have made him one of the world's most popular and well-respected performers. Jean-Luc Ponty is a pioneer and undisputed master of the violin in the arena of jazz and rock, and widely regarded as an innovator.

Tickets for the performance on Saturday, March 11, are on sale now via www.thsh.co.uk

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Express & Star

Aspiring trader sees his market hopes stall

A DISABLED student says he has been refused the chance to run a fruit and veg stall on Walsall Market by the council – though he claims there are empty stalls.

Naresh Kumar has complained to the council amid fears he may be being discriminated against.

The 31-year-old, from West Bromwich, suffers from cerebral palsy and walks with crutches.

He said: "When I contacted the council department in charge of the market they said that all the stalls are full. But whenever I am in the town they are empty.

"They tell me that I will need to go on a waiting list, but I don't understand why. I fear that this may be discrimination. If I don't get a response soon then I will seek legal advice too."

Benefits

Mr Kumar, who is is currently studying at college, said: "I want to get off benefits and earn my own money and I feel that this could be something that would help me for the future too.

"I want to make something out of my life and I know that I have my family's backing as well. I just want to get into work but it's difficult for me."

The market operates in the town centre every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and trades between 8.30am and 5.00pm. It comprises around 68 stalls.

The council said there were no vacancies for an additional fruit and veg stall and that Mr Kumar had been offered, and refused, a stall at Willenhall Market, as well as the chance to sell other goods

A statement said: "We are aware some stalls are empty but this is due to recent bad weather and annual leave."

Naresh Kumar, who suffers from cerebral palsy, wants to run a fruit and veg stall

Decision soon on hall plan

COUNCIL bosses have said they expect a decision over a controversial development planned for Great Barr Hall to be made soon.

A bid to turn the 18th century mansion into a wedding venue and build 57 homes in its grounds was first lodged in 2013, but stalled after objections from politicians and campaigners.

Now Historic England has told applicant BCG Lakes it would not support the development as it believed it could ruin the Grade II-listed building. Walsall Council says a decision date is drawing nearer and is waiting to hear back from the applicant.

Spokesman Sophia French said: "Walsall Council recently received Historic England's comments on the planning and listed building consent applications and these have been sent to the applicant for consideration.

"The council awaits the applicant's response on matters raised before progressing the application to determination."

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Glassworks bid held up as skip firm stays put

Road closed in gun probe

Rood End Road in Oldbury was cordoned off by police after reports a man may have been shot with a BB gun

POLICE closed off a road in Oldbury after a man was found with leg injuries. Officers are investigating suggestions he was shot with a BB gun or air weapon.

Rood End Road was closed between Tat Bank Road, at Rood End Medical Centre, and Gresham Road, by Rood End Primary School last Wednesday morning. Around 10 officers were stationed at the scene carrying out a forensic search.

The previous night a man took himself to hospital with minor injuries. Reports locally suggested there may have been a shooting. West Midlands Police spokesman Brigg Ford said: "Police were alerted at 9pm by staff at City Hospital reporting a man who'd presented himself to A&E with a minor wound to his leg.

"It's understood the man sustained the injury while in Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, earlier that evening.

"At this stage it's unclear how he came about his injury; the road was cordoned off to allow for a forensic search."

The road closure caused major delays on surrounding roads during the morning rush-hour.

BOSSES at a skip hire firm have thrown a major restoration of an historic glassworks into doubt.

No 1 Skip Hire is based on the site of Chance Glassworks in Smethwick, which is subject to a multi-million pound development.

But the skip hire firm says it will not move until an alternative site is found.

No 1 Skip Hire was told it must leave the site when its application to continue operating was denied by Sandwell Council last year. It was given until April to move but the firm has launched an appeal, requesting to be given two years to leave, and remains on the site.

The company has also threatened to take the council to the High Court over the initial decision to refuse planning consent, making matters more complicated.

Suitable

The company operates on an acre of land on the Spon Lane site and the development cannot go ahead while it remains in place. Bosses say 18 jobs would be lost if the firm is forced to stop trading and insist they have no plans to leave unless a suitable site in Sandwell is provided for them to go to.

Roger Page, of planning agent Page Swinford, which is acting on behalf of No 1 Skip Hire, said: "Our client wishes to remain on the site operating until such a time it is feasible to relocate and it is for Sandwell Council to find alternative sites.

"Providing they can operate, at some stage, elsewhere we do not wish to stand in the way of this development."

The Chance Glassworks Heritage Trust has said its exciting re-development plans, for homes and shops, will change the face of the largely derelict glassworks site but members have grown frustrated by the skip hire firm's refusal to budge.

Graham Fisher, from the trust, said: "It could delay us considerably. We are not trying to stop them from having a business, we want to work with them to find a solution which is better for them as well."

Goodness Nose how they raise so much

Staff and students at Q3 Academy Langley will be making their laughs matter for Red Nose Day

AN Oldbury school is gearing up for its traditional Red Nose Day fundraiser.

Q3 Academy Langley will host a table football competition, sponsored silence and bake sale for this year's event on March 24.

Last time around, the schoolchildren, staff and teachers of the West Midlands raised more than £650,000, which was put to work helping vulnerable people in the area, all over the UK and across Africa.

Q3 Academy played its part by organising a bake sale and by wearing silly jumpers, raising more than £1,100 to help to fund projects like Sandwell African Women's Association which provides a safe place for African refugees affected by war and violence.

Bravery medal rethink call

WARLEY MP John Spellar has called on the Government to 'think again' after bomb disposal officers in Northern Ireland were denied a medal for bravery.

Mr Spellar, a former Minister of State for Northern Ireland, is among a group of Labour MPs campaigning for a review after the Cabinet Office rejected a move to award Ammunition Technical Officers based in the province a General Service Medal.

The request by Northern Ireland's most senior Army officer, Brigadier Andrew Rowe, was thrown out over fears it would mean admitting a full military operation is ongoing in Ulster.

Mr Spellar said: "These bomb squads put their lives on the line every week and their contribution deserves recognition. The MoD should think again." He was among a number of signatories to a letter to the Defence Minister that was written by Tom Blenkinsop, chairman of Labour's backbench committee on Northern Ireland.

Mr Blenkinsop said: "The support Ammunition Technicians in Northern Ireland provide the Police Service of Northern Ireland in tackling bomb threats to civilians is vital. They carry out this work with a professionalism and bravery that deserves to be recognised."

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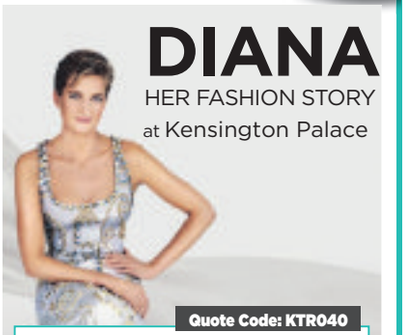

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Very revealing!

THE long-awaited announcement of the line-up for these year's V Festival was revealed this week – with P!nk and Jay Z the surprise big headliners.

Rumours had been rife for weeks ahead of the announcement with the smart money seemingly on Ed Sheerhan as the likely big draw, writes Diane Davies.

Meanwhile Drake, Kaiser Chiefs, Mumford and Sons and Mary J Blige had also been touted as possible headliners by the music press.

Both Jay Z and P!nk have been fairly low profile in recent years musically. Raunchy American singer P!nk has not had a solo album out since 2012 and not toured since 2013/14.

It is 10 years since since P!nk made her debut V appearance. Festival promoters say the 'pop icon will be entertaining the crowd with her elaborate stagecraft and choreography'.

Rapper Jay Z who will be headlining this year's festival

P!nk performs at Birmingham's LG Arena on her last tour

Teens

With more than 100 million records sold and a 20-year career, Jay Z is one of the best-selling musicians of all time. Although the US rapper is almost better known as Mr Beyonce for young music fans having not had a solo album out for almost four years.

The 47-year-old has not toured since 2013/14.

He and wife Beyonce recently announced that she is pregnant with twins but have not revealed her due date – though it is rumoured to be around the beginning of August.

The V Festival takes place at Weston Park in Staffordshire and Hylands Park, Chelmsford, on August 19 and 20. Having gained a reputation in recent years as a festival focusing on the 'teen scene', last year's headliners were Justin Bieber and Rihanna, there are a number of acts which will satisfy the usual crowd.

'Godfather of garage' Craig David, Jason Derulo, Jess Glynne, local lads The Vamps, Sean Paul, Dizzee Rascal, Clean Bandit, James Arthur and rising sensation Stormzy have all been announced this week. Ellie Goulding will be making her fifth V appearance and there is a return for Rudimental.

Scouting for Girls and Busted tick the 'guitar band 'box while Madness always provide a lively show and will appease the more mature members of the crowd.

Pete Tong was the first name released by the organisers, last Friday, as a sneak tease to the big reveal this week. Tong is one of the most successful electronic dance DJs worldwide and will be creating the sound of summer to both sites with his Ibiza Classics orchestra show.

Tickets for V go on general sale at 9am on Friday. A weekend ticket will cost £175 plus fees.

As well as day and weekend tickets there are camping tickets – including VIP and 'glamping' options.

A 'pod pad' sleeping two people costs £1,366 while an Airstream Prince Trailer for five will set visitors back £6,500. This does include access to the VIP area though.

Around 70,000 attended last year's V Festival. Headliner Justin Bieber found himself making all the wrong headlines over the weekend with claims that he was miming and had been out partying to the early hours.

● What do you think of the line-up. Email us at wolverhampton.chronicles@expressandstar.co.uk or write to Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Jail for man who filmed child secretly

A 35-YEAR-OLD man who used covert cameras to film indecent footage of a child, and downloaded and shared hundreds of indecent images, has been jailed for 42 months.

By Judith Hawkins

Paul Mann, from Cradley Heath, was sentenced on Monday at Wolverhampton Crown Court after having pleaded guilty to a raft of charges.

He admitted his guilt on two counts of sexual assault against a child, two counts relating to the production of indecent images of a child, three counts relating to downloading indecent images of a child, and three counts of distribution of such material.

The court heard how Mann was employed and had no previous convictions, but after being introduced to a file sharing website, allegedly to download music, he began searching for indecent material.

Mann then used a camera hidden in a shoebox to film a child, and on two occasions 'manoeuvred them' for the purpose of obtaining footage, the court was told.

Prosecutor Mr Christopher O'Gorman outlined how on November 3, 2015, police officers from the child sexual exploitation team carried out a raid at the defendant's home on Woodhouse Way after being alerted to his internet use.

Mr O'Gorman said during the search officers found two laptops and a memory stick, with the majority of the indecent material discovered on one laptop hidden in a bedroom wardrobe.

A total of 317 indecent photos and movies, including seven Mann had recorded himself, were discovered.

He could be seen at the start adjusting the camera and items in shot.

Officers also found 68 cannabis plants in a garage at the back of the property, and 20 in the loft, along with lighting and heating equipment, which Mann claimed he had been asked to store for a friend while his house was on the market.

Around £7,000 in cash was seized from a biscuit tin, which Mann claimed to be from the sale of a motorbike and a car.

The money will be subject to the Proceed of Crimes Act.

Mann also pleaded guilty to permitting his property to be used for the production of a controlled drug, and also for illegally abstracting electricity.

For each these two offences he received two-month jail terms, to be run concurrently with the other sentences.

Elaine is given chief nurse role

Elaine Newell – appointed as chief nurse at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

SANDWELL and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Elaine Newell as its chief nurse.

Elaine is the former director of midwifery at the trust, which runs Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis Hospitals, and is noted for transforming standards of care within maternity services. She has been acting chief nurse since December last year and was given the job after an external process overseen by NHS Improvement.

Her appointment has been welcomed by chief executive Toby Lewis: "Elaine will bring a distinctive and professional voice reflecting the concerns and hopes of our patients and their carers. I have every confidence that she can drive the recruitment and retention of nurses and midwives."

Commenting on her appointment, Elaine said: "I am delighted to be given the opportunity to lead the nursing profession at the Trust as we work towards the opening of the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital."

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Live venue bounces back after ticket con

A POPULAR Black Country venue has undergone a revamp after bouncing back from a ticket-selling scam.

The Windsor Theatre, Bearwood, dates back to the 1930s. It has now been updated to give it a modern twist.

Late last year a fraudster, who claimed to be hosting a sell-out show featuring stars of Mrs Brown's Boys, conned regulars out of thousands of pounds at the venue.

The conman, who had advertised under several different names – including Mint Studios, was supposedly holding the events in aid of charity.

Tickets were priced as high as £35 for the show which punters thought was taking place in August.

The scheme was exposed when lawyers for Mrs Brown's Boys star Brendan O'Carroll contacted the theatre to say that they knew nothing about it.

Busy

Theatre owner Paul Fletcher said: "The ticket scam really affected us.

"It was just an awful con by someone who we trusted and allowed to be a part of The Windsor.

"We are now doing some fundamental changes to the venue as we realised that it needed a lot of work doing to it.

"We are keeping busy and doing well at the moment," he said.

The Windsor was originally opened as a picture and theatre venue back in the hey-day of the movies in the 1930s.

"It played host to all the latest films.

Its distinctive and imposing facade became a focal point in Bearwood with its domed roof dominating the skyline.

Sadly, the historic building was neglected until Mr Fletcher took it over in a bid to breathe new life into the venue.

Smethwick ward councillor Richard Marshall said he was delighted with the improvements at the venue which is a cornerstone of the area.

Councillor Marshall added that the revamp at The Windsor is just one of a number of positive things happening in and around Smethwick.

He said: "It's a fantastic facility and they're doing a great job there.

"I think it's Birmingham quality, but at Sandwell prices.

"With all the work that is happening in Birmingham at the moment we are definitely seeing a major ripple effect coming into Sandwell – and Bearwood in particular," he said.

"Smethwick is a hotbed for new housing and there are lots of positive things happening," said Councillor Marshall.

"The work on Lightwoods House is nearly finished and we also have the new Midland Met Hospital which will be opened up next year."

Theatre owner Paul Fletcher with Luke Smith, Barry Lin and Paul Miller

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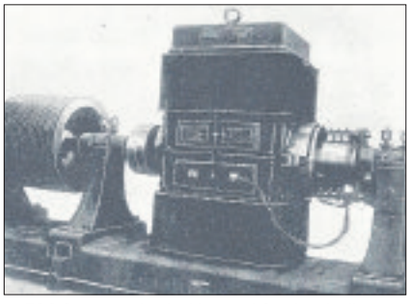
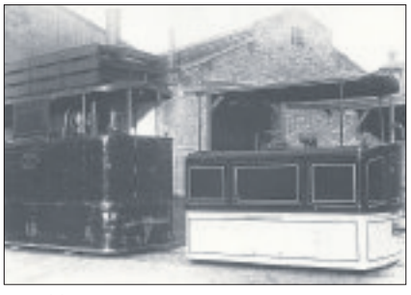
Tram travelling along the Pleck road

EEC factory sign in the Heritage Centre

Walsall tram outside the power station in Pleck



ECC Generator for the Liverpool Overhead railway



ECC accumulator tram supplied to Birmingham

Pioneers who led the way in electric traction

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

THOUGH the Five Ws Metro line has been long in the planning, but slow off the mark, it should not be forgotten that Wolverhampton's Electric Construction Company built an electric tramway to Walsall 120 years ago.

The ECC in Bushbury was one of the pioneers of electric traction, led by the genius of Thomas Parker.

They had built the first ever licensed powered vehicle in London, an electric omnibus built in 1890, and also supplied an electric-accumulator tram system to Birmingham, and Blackpool's first tramway

This had surface contacts, and was the first large tramway in Great Britain.

Parker famously commuted from the Manor House on Upper Green in Tettenhall to the Bushbury Works in an electric car.

The South Staffordshire tramway went 23 miles from Wednesbury and Darlaston through Pleck to Walsall Bridge, where the line split again, going to Bloxwich and Lichfield Road.

Overhead

By 1893 ECC had electrified nine miles of the line from Pleck, using an overhead wire system, and supplying power from its own power station.

Shortly afterwards ECC supplied the motive power for the Liverpool Overhead Railway, a much loved system, which ran for six miles along the Liverpool Docks.

Shortly afterwards Parker fell out with the company's board and went away to form his own on a site opposite Low Level Station, and supplied equipment to electrify the Metropolitan Railway, amongst others.

Around the turn of the century ECC dropped out of the powered vehicle market, concentrating on supplying power station equipment, a market it was to play a huge part in, until cheaper foreign suppliers appeared in the 1980s. Thomas Parker retired to live in his home village of Coalbrookdale, and is buried in Madeley churchyard.

Drawing of a surface contact tram supplied to Madras

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Romance is in the air for couples at library

ROMANCE was in the air among the books at Tipton Library.

More than 100 couples brought in wedding pictures as part of a focus on love during Valentine's week.

Library visitors were treated to romantic-themed activities including flower-arranging and serenading from singer and library volunteer, Tom Heyes. He performed a repertoire of love songs, including many Frank Sinatra hits.

But the main event was the exhibition of wedding photographs, which was the idea of the local history society –and it has proved so popular that the pictures will be archived when the exhibition closes.

Among them was a picture of Robert Williams, aged 68, and wife Jan, 69, of Dora Road, West Bromwich, who tied the knot at Melrose Abbey in Scotland in 2003 – the first ever marriage ceremony to be held in the monastery ruins.

Brian and Pat Dutfield, who wed in 1962

Gundi and Malcolm Jones of Tipton

Alan and Thelma Wainwright, Donovan and Isabel Beebee, Rob and Jan Williams

Snow

"There was no roof on it and the heavens had opened. But just as our wedding was due to start the rain stopped and the sun came out," said Robert.

Isabel and Donovan Beebee, both 79, of Galton Close, Tipton, celebrated 60 years of marriage on Boxing Day.

The couple can be seen picking their way through several inches of snow outside Princes End Baptist Chapel on their wedding day.

Isabel said: "It started snowing on Christmas Eve and it didn't stop. They needed a shovel to clear the path to the chapel."

September 12, 1981, was an extra special day for Alan and Thelma Wainwright, of Bloomfield Road, Tipton.

"It was a lovely day," said Thelma, 72. The exhibition even had a quirky American section featuring wedding pictures of couples from the US with the surname Tipton.

Jeff Worsey, chairman of Tipton Library Friends' Group, was contacted out of the blue by the Tipton Family Association of America, a group that seeks to connect American people called Tipton and their descendants. John Parrish, who set up the group, and whose mother was named Tipton, visited the Black Country town last year and plans a return visit this year.

"When I told him about the wedding exhibition, he put out the call to members who sent over some photographs for us to feature, including one of his son's wedding," said Jeff.

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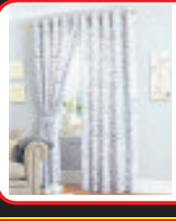

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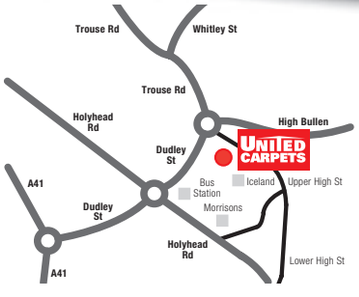

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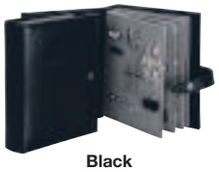
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Robbie's a pal but I still see old mates

He's so God Damned nice. Talking to Olly Murs is like talking to the ultimate cheeky chap. There's no edge and nothing unpleasant.

He's as unlikely to throw a strop as Mother Teresa, he's as unlikely to be caught with his pants down as the local lollipop lady. He's the antithesis of Kanye and Kardashian, the polar opposite of Katie Hopkins. He's as unlikely to demand a jar full of purple Smarties on his backstage rider as a lion is to marry a dolphin.

Good God, Olly, stop being so flippin' nice. And yet that's what the public admires about him. While so many who are thrust into the spotlight are dysfunctional and difficult, Olly is precisely the opposite. He is the archetypal boy-who-done-well, the classic boy next door who made it big.

Olly was working as a recruitment consultant at Prime Appointments, in Witham, before he featured on The X Factor. And he's still in touch with his old officemates now. The closest he'd come to stardom was appearing on Deal or No Deal in 2007. He wasn't much cop, taking home a tenner after messing up royally.

Like many kids, he'd dreamed of hitting the big time. But after forming a band, The Small Town Blaggers, that got nowhere fast, he pretty much gave up. And so, after his Deal or No Deal experience, he jacked it all in and went backpacking around Australia. Then, when he returned, he decided to have one last crack at fame. He rolled the dice in 2009 and is landed on X.

LUCK

"X Factor got me started, but I think for me it's just about hard work. I respect people and I'm nice to people and I've also had a bit of luck. People like my music and have bought into me so I try to give people a different sound and a different vibe. It's just been a great journey. I've been very lucky. I hate to say luck because we all know it isn't all luck. You've got to have a bit of talent."

Olly was the runner-up on the sixth series of The X Factor in 2009. His debut single, Please Don't Let Me Go, debuted at number one while his debut album was certified double platinum after shifting more than 600,000 copies. And since then, it's been one-way traffic. Olly has been moving higher and higher and higher as he's shipped a colossal 10 million records, published an autobiography called Happy Days and released three further albums which have all gone to number one and achieved between two and four platinum discs for sales that have hovered around one-million-per-record. The only thing he hasn't done is fill his mantelpiece with awards. Olly has been nominated for six Brits and two Ivor Novellos, but always been pipped. Still, there's still time to put that right, especially with the release of his fifth album, 24 hrs.

"I think it's the best thing I've done, yes. It's certainly my best songwriting. I wrote it with some great writers and as a body of work it's the best thing I've come up with. Right now, I'm just looking forward to the fans listening to it.

"When you've done four albums, it's like what am I going to do for my fifth? Where do I go? So what I've always done in my career is try to move forward."

The new album will be accompanied by another megatron tour. Having stayed on the road from March to August with his last set of arena shows, for Never Been Better, which included three dates at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena, Olly is back for more. This time he'll be playing the city's Genting. At present, he's scheduled just the one date, for March 24, but don't bet against him returning for more.

Olly loves the high life but he's Mur likely to be found in Essex

"I'm looking forward to it," he says. "To do these sort of venues is fantastic and I never get bored of it. I always hope that one day I'll move up and play stadiums. That's certainly on my bucket list."

He's learned from the best in the business. Olly was part of One Direction's Up All Night Tour in 2012, when he joined the boys in the USA. And he was also the special guest for Robbie Williams' Take The Crown Tour, in 2013, which earned $20 million from nine shows and included four sell-out gigs at Wembley and the same number at Manchester's Etihad Stadium.

"Working with people like Robbie Williams and Gary Barlow has been great. It's always good to work with people like that and get close, to see those guys going about their work. I'm grateful to them for giving me the opportunity to play on their tours.

"Hopefully one day there'll be a young singer on one of my tours and I'll try to guide them and give them advice and help"

Not that Olly takes his success for granted. In the fickle world of pop, he knows that what goes up must come down. Though a crash is more unlikely that a bad dinner from Gordon Ramsay, he knows it might not last forever.

"I'm not a fool. I know that at some point it'll all be gone. But then it might not – who knows it might go on for the rest of my life. I'll continue for as long as my fans in the UK want me to. If I move into other careers, like TV or radio, that would be cool. You don't know, the opportunities are endless."

> *You've got to tick all the boxes really if you want to get somewhere*

For a cheeky chappy like Olly, they probably are. He's the sort of entertainer who'll still be around in 20 years.

The Nice theme continues when he's not on pop star duty. Away from the stage, he's a right regular philanthropist who supports his local Brainwave charity, which is based in his home town and helps kids with cerebral palsy.

"Giving back is massively important to me. When you're in the position I'm in where your profile can really elevate some charities then you can use that to raise money and help families and kids in need. I'm in the position to do that and I love helping, I love doing that. The charities that I'm involved in are all important to me.

With enough in the bank to live comfortably, Olly could slow down. He could swan off to some exotic isle and sip vodka, lychee juice and vermouth or mango daiquiris. Not that he does. When he's off duty, you're more likely to find him knocking about in Essex, where he still hangs out with his old mates. Olly may have Robbie Williams' number on speed dial, but he's just as likely to text his mates, Colin and Robbie, instead.

"I'm always at home in Essex. I'm always visiting my old employees, especially an agency I used to work for, Prime Appointments.

● Olly is performing at The Genting Arena, Birmingham on Thursday, March 23, Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25. Tickets cost from £33.99. Visit www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 33 88 222.

Andy Richardson

Annette – no stranger to city

Billy reaches new heights

Annette is loving boinging back – to star in Billy Elliot

It'll be like a home from home when Annette McLaughlin lands in Birmingham to star in a six-week run of Billy Elliot.

The actress and comedian once spent every other weekend near the city, commuting from London with her then-boyfriend, Frank Skinner, to watch the Albion. Boing Boing, does that make her a Born Again Baggie. "Oh God, no. I was just a very, very good girlfriend."

Instead of the blue-and-white-stripes, her abiding memory is of the half time pies.

The West End star, who plays Mrs Wilkinson in Billy Elliot, the role made famous in the movie by Julie Walters, worked with Skinner on TV's The Frank Skinner Show.

"Frank was my boyfriend and I used to go and watch West Brom with him," she says. "I enjoy football because I had three brothers and used to enjoy playing it as a kid. I used to go every Saturday with Frank and I loved it. I loved the pies most of all, that was my favourite thing. The gravy used to drip down my hands. They were delicious.

"We only used to go up for the weekend but it was great because he was such a massive fan of West Brom and was so proud of his heritage."

Heritage is a dominant theme in Billy Elliot. It celebrates life in a northern mining town. Set against the background of the 1980s miners' strike it follows Billy's journey from boxing to ballet class, where he discovers a passion for dance that changes his life forever.

Sharing the role of Billy are Adam Abbou, Matthew Lyons, Haydn May and local boy Lewis Smallman, from West Bromwich. McLaughlin has been with the show for a year and describes it as a winner.

"Having seen it when it first opened in the West End, I just wanted to be a part of it. It's an incredible show and I wanted to play that part," she says. "When it came round it was an easy decision to make. I've been doing the show for almost a year on tour and I love every second.

The show runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday until April 29

It's Bach to Hendrix at Kennedy special

World-renowned violinist Nigel Kennedy will make a triumphant return to his adopted home city of Birmingham with a gala celebration show at Symphony Hall.

The maverick Aston Villa-loving violinist will combine his greatest successes and new works for this one-off performance on Saturday, March 11.

Kennedy will perform a wide-ranging repertoire from Bach to Hendrix, world music to jazz, accompanied by a host of special guests including Bulgarian composer and virtuoso on the gadulka (stringed folk instrument) Georgi Andreev and world-class violinists Jean-Luc Ponty, Michael Guttman and Pieter Daniel.

Kennedy's unique talent and extraordinary ability to communicate with audiences have made him one of the world's most popular performers.

Jean-Luc Ponty is a master of the violin in the arena of jazz and rock. He is widely regarded as an innovator.

Despite their different musical backgrounds, Kennedy and Ponty had the same mentor – Stéphane Grappelli, who saw in them the renewal of the violin. The encounter between these two exceptional artists promises to be powerfully creative. It will range from the acoustic to the electronic and with a repertoire drawn from the last three centuries.

Georgi Andreev is a virtuoso of the gadulka, a traditional Bulgarian bowstring instrument. Michael Guttman is an eminent violin soloist, conductor and music director of festivals around the world.

At the age of 10 he became the youngest student ever to be admitted into the Brussels Royal Conservatory of Music.and went on to study at the Juilliard School in New York with Nigel.

Another of Nigel's friends from Juilliard, Pieter Daniel, who made his orchestra debut at the age of 12, will also perform.

"This is shaping up to be an amazing concert," says Nigel. "Jean-Luc Ponty, is a genius, He is one of the greatest in jazz, ever. He is an innovator with a unique visionary spin. He plays on the harmonies, just killa. Then we've got Georgi over from Bulgaria too, it'll be special.

"And, of course my good friends from Juilliard, Michael and Pieter, will be joining me too. I'll have a strong relationship with everyone on that stage."

Ticket prices range from £25.50 to £68 for the 7.30pm gala concert. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

Ladies – the times they are a-changin'

Menopause The Musical, an all-singing all-dancing comedy is on its way

The show about ladies of a certain age will unite one of Britain's best known singing sisters with three familiar faces from TV drama.

Maureen Nolan will join Cheryl Fergison (pictured) who played Heather Trott in EastEnders with sometime member of the Loose Women panel Rebecca Wheatley, from TV's Casualty, and Penny Dreadful actress Ruth Berkeley. It is on at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Thursday, March 9.

Gig choice? Listen to what Mama Said . . .

Mama Said and 7 Years outfit Lukas Graham, from Denmark, bring their soul-pop to Birmingham O2 Academy on Sunday and the same night Traffic co-founder Dave Mason brings his Traffic Jam to Bilston's Robin 2.

In Digbeth, Leeds indie rockers The Pigeon Detecives play the O2 Institute on Wednesday, with Lucy Spraggan on Thursday and Oxford's Glass Animals on Friday.

Leamington Spa singer-songwriter Joe Dolman (pictured) plays the Sunflower Lounge in Brum on Thursday. Dutch Uncles play the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Monday.

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Sat 13 May	Ken Dodd & Liverpool Special	£99

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Thu 13 Apr	Betway Premier League Darts - Live!	£99
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Sat 13 May	Liverpool & Haydock Races	£99
Sat 13 May	Women's FA Cup Final - Wembley (b&b)	£99
Sat 20 May	Non-League Finals Day - Wembley Stadium (b&b)	£99
Sat 20 May	FA Vase & FA Trophy Finals - Wembley (b&b)	£99
Sat 20 May	British Touring Car Championship - Oulton Park	£119
Sat 27 May	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
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Sat 26 Aug	Ebor Stakes - York Racecourse	£119
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Mon 13 Mar	5	Rhine & Moselle Inclusive	£219
Mon 13 Mar	5	Rhine Valley Superdeal	£189
Mon 20 Mar	4	Ostend Special Breakaway	£149
Mon 20 Mar	4	Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad (b&b)	£279
Mon 20 Mar	5	Ostend Inclusive	£249
Mon 20 Mar	5	Rhine & Moselle Inclusive	£229

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Mon 3 Apr	Flying Scotsman Special	£119
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Sat 15 Apr	Emmerdale The Tour	£99
Sat 15 Apr	London & The Tall Ships Regatta Easter Special	£119
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NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

SATURDAY'S TV MARCH 4

CHOICE

Sue Perkins & Mel Giedroyc

Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief (BBC1, 6.45pm)

New series. Presenter double-team Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins are reunited to host the all-star talent show, in which celebrity performers take to the stage to display their musical talents by delivering their interpretations of various pop hits. The contest gets under way with performances by Radio 1 DJ Matt Edmondson, astrologer Russell Grant, comedienne Sara Pascoe, DJ duo Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odoom, and Absolutely Fabulous actresses Harriet Thorpe and Helen Lederer - otherwise known as Patsy's long-suffering associates Fleur and Catriona. Only two of the star acts featured each week will be able progress to the Grand Final.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** My Life: The Boy on the Bicycle. **2.45 Film:** Monsters vs Aliens. (2009) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. **4.10** Final Score. **5.10** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Hugh Dennis and Pauline McLynn, Charlie Higson and Adil Ray, Richard Gibson and Vicki Michelle, and Jean Fergusson and Tina Malone compete. (R)

6.45 Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief. New series. Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins present the all-star talent show, in which celebrity performers display their musical talents via interpretations of various pop hits.

8.00 Who Dares Wins. Game show in which Nick Knowles challenges two pairs of complete strangers to team up, with each pair battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up.

8.40 Casualty. David spends one last day with Ollie before his aunt takes him back to Spain, while Louise and Dylan try convince the board to help them tackle alcohol abuse.

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Rory and Dino have a bust-up, Mark and Betty announce they are leaving for Australia right away and a phone call causes the Brown children to suspect one of them may be adopted. (R)

10.00 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Leicester City v Hull City at King Power Stadium, and Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield.

11.45 This Country. Kerry becomes a door-to-door saleswoman and Kurtan makes new friends in the village. Mockumentary presenting a wry look at the lives of young people living in rural Britain.

12.10 Film: Papadopoulos & Sons. (2012) **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: North West Frontier. (1959) Action adventure, starring Lauren Bacall and Kenneth More. **8.30** Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships. Coverage of the morning session on day two. **10.00** Ireland's Wild River: The Mighty Shannon – Natural World. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. (R) **1.00** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **1.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Mastermind. (R) **3.15** University Challenge. (R) **3.45** Only Connect. (R) **4.15** Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the evening session on day two.

8.15 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. Paul Murton visits the three island outposts of Shetland, Papa Stour, Whalsay and Out Skerries. He encounters newborn lambs and watches a traditional sword dance, before taking a trip on a trawler. He discovers how the islands have developed their own sense of community in the face of declining populations and the challenges of a remote location.

8.45 Dad's Army. Sgt Wilson struggles to concentrate on his Home Guard duties when he has a personal problem to contend with. Classic comedy, starring John Le Mesurier and Arthur Lowe. (R)

9.15 Live at the Apollo. Adam Hills, host of Channel 4's The Last Leg, is the latest master of ceremonies at London's Hammersmith Apollo. He introduces US comic Michelle Wolf and sharp-witted Jamali Maddix to the stage. (R)

10.00 Martin Scorsese: True Confessions. Nick James interviews Academy Award-winning director Martin Scorsese on his fascination with themes of masculinity, religion, crime, and life in New York.

10.30 Film: Mean Streets. (1973) A small-time crook's conscience and loyalty to his girlfriend conflict with his desire to rise in the criminal world. Martin Scorsese's drama, with Robert De Niro and Harvey Keitel.

12.20 Taboo. (R) **2.15 Film:** Witchfinder General. (1968) A 17th-century lawyer callously destroys innocent lives while serving as a witchfinder, but meets his match in a vengeful soldier. Horror, starring Vincent Price and Ian Ogilvy. **3.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** Alphabetical. (R) **10.20** Guess This House. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** The Voice UK. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Doncaster. Coverage of today's race meetings at Doncaster and Newbury. **4.00** You've Been Framed! (R) **4.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**4.45** ITV News; Weather. **5.00 Film:** Despicable Me 2. (2013) Animated comedy sequel.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The popular duo's entertainment show continues, as Robbie Williams and his wife Ayda Field join the pair for this year's first I'm A Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear. Brendan O'Carroll, otherwise known as Agnes Brown of Mrs Brown's Boys, serves as this week's guest announcer, and Stephen Mulhern takes the boys back through time to Ancient Egypt in another round of Ant Versus Dec. Plus, the next installment of The Missing Crown Jewel, in which Emilia Fox aims to take the investigation one step closer to identifying the famous thief, and Ant and Dec themselves star in a spectacular End of the Show Show.

8.30 The Voice UK. The contest switches gear once again in the first live knock-out show, beginning as Jennifer Hudson's six acts are whittled down to three via head-to-head performances.

9.45 ITV News; Weather.

10.00 Lethal Weapon. A maverick cop is partnered with a veteran detective trying to maintain a low stress level. Action drama based on the films, starring Clayne Crawford and Damon Wayans. (R)

10.55 Film: First Blood. (1982) A Vietnam veteran escapes unjust imprisonment and flees into the wilderness, where he fights the law on his own terms. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

7.10 The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Series following a British family through the process of buying and restoring a French chateau that has been empty for the past four decades. Dick Strawbridge and his partner Angel Adoree's new home has 12 acres of land, nine outbuildings, a walled garden and a moat – but it also has no electricity, heating or water, and proves to be a far more complicated DIY project than expected. (R)

8.00 Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service. The actress travels around the country to visit the Queen's official residences and meet people with royal appointments. The journey begins in Windsor Castle, where she finds out about Britain's oldest order of chivalry, meets the Royal Herb Strewer and unearths a box of treasure dating back to Elizabeth I. She also takes a trip up the Thames in the gilded barge Gloriana. (R)

9.00 Film: The Wolverine. (2013) The former member of the X-Men is lured out of hiding and travels to Japan, where a dying businessman offers him the chance to give up his immortality for a normal life. He ends up robbed of his superhuman powers by a mysterious scientist and is forced to protect the tycoon's granddaughter from a secret conspiracy's assassins. Superhero adventure spin-off, starring Hugh Jackman and Tao Okamoto.

11.25 Film: Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. (2012)

1.20 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. **4.25** Building the Dream. **5.20** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Access. **10.35** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **11.35** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **12.35** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **1.30** Dance Moms. **2.25** Dance Moms. **3.20** Dance Moms. **4.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Documentary series giving an insight into the world of debt collection. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy try to collect a debt from a technology company, but with the director nowhere to be seen, the office manager does everything she can to prove the business is no longer trading. Stewart McCracken and Elmor Victor face a heartbreaking house repossession in Merseyside, where two landlords are forced to evict a tenant recovering from a brain tumour which has cost him his job and income. (R)

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. Nell goes undercover at the Department of Defence after a researcher is found dead, and a new addition fails to endear himself to the rest of the team.

8.00 NCIS. A petty officer is suspected of murdering his ex-girlfriend, and volunteers to be court-martialled so that the NCIS team will investigate and perhaps prove his innocence.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Highlights from the weekend's games, including Huddersfield Town v Newcastle United at John Smith's Stadium, Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic at Ewood Park, and Fulham v Preston North End at Craven Cottage.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. All the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Rochdale v Sheffield United, and Plymouth Argyle v Carlisle United.

10.30 Conspiracy: Pearl Harbor Cover-Up. Suggestions of a cover-up in relation to the Japanese attack in December 1941, alleging it was actually masterminded by US president Franklin D Roosevelt.

11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Inside Windsor Castle. (R) **4.00** The Cars That Made Britain Great. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Indian Hill Railways **8.00** She-Wolves: England's Early Queens **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.05** The Secret Science of Pop **1.05 Film:** Janis: Little Girl Blue (2015) **2.35** Queens of Soul **3.35** Close

ITV2

11.10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.40** Take Me Out **1.55** The Voice UK **3.55 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **5.45 Film:** Kindergarten Cop (1990) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50 Film:** Kindergarten Cop (1990) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00 Film:** American Pie 2 (2001) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** American Pie 2 (2001) **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05 Film:** Wanted (2008) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10 Film:** Wanted (2008) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.35 Lewis **1.40** Inspector Morse **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Carry On Forever **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** Marchlands **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 The Car Chasers **12.00** Storage Wars: Texas **12.30** Live Darts: UK Open. Coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **5.00** The Darts Show **5.25** Pawn Stars **5.55** It's Not Rocket Science **7.00** Live Darts: UK Open. Further coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **11.00 Film:** Jackie Brown (1997) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05 Film:** Jackie Brown (1997) **2.05** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **11.15 Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.30** Black-ish **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00 Film:** Mission: Impossible (1996) **7.10** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Red (2010) **11.10** Gogglebox **12.15** Celebs Go Dating **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.05** Rude Tube **4.30** Rude(ish) Tube **4.50** Revenge

Film4

11.00 Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **1.00** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **3.10** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **4.55** Casper (1995) **6.55** X-Men (2000) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman. **9.00** The Rewrite (2014) Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Marisa Tomei. **11.10** Stonehearst Asylum (2014) **1.25** Sorority Row (2009) **3.35** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV MARCH 5

CHOICE

Dara Ó Briain (left)

Robot Wars (BBC2, 7pm)
New series. Dara Ó Briain and Angela Scanlon present the first group heat, with eight teams facing off through two group battles in the arena for a place in the grand final. A new twist on the format sees random house robots being sent to attack the competitors if they stray into the wrong part of the arena. Jonathan Pearce commentates on the action, while Professor Noel Sharkey, Dr Lucy Rogers and Professor Sethu Vijayakumar judge the operators' skills and select a victor in the case of an uncertain outcome.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Flog It! (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Shop Well for Less? (R) **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. Mariella Frostrup and Richard Coles present the show from the National Portrait Gallery, where the artists face two of their hardest challenges. Firstly, they have to produce a self-portrait, most of which seem to capture the subject looking afraid. They are then joined by sitters Angela Rippon and Floella Benjamin and challenged to capture their famous faces accurately on canvas.

7.00 Countryfile. The team explores the South Downs. Helen Skelton discovers why dark skies are important for animals, John Craven visits the Bloomsbury Group's rural retreat, and Matt baker meets a pony that is blazing a trail across the landscape. Tom Heap travels to Spain to get to the bottom of Britain's vegetable crisis, and Adam Henson investigates new ways to stop cattle from roaming.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Dr Turner helps a couple whose daughter was born without limbs to have her fitted for prosthetics – but the experience provokes different reactions from her mother and father.

9.00 SS-GB. Archer tracks down Spode, who confesses to murdering his brother, before going in search of the missing atomic bomb plans – but the resistance are still targeting him.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which featured Tottenham Hotspur v Everton at White Hart Lane, and Sunderland v Manchester City at The Stadium of Light.

11.35 American High School. A student whose father is in prison has developed his own business.

12.20 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.15** An Island Parish. (R) **7.45** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **11.45** Nigellissima. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Triathlon. **2.30** Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the third and final day from the Kombank Arena in Belgrade, Serbia, where medals are awarded in 11 events. The finals of the women's and men's 800m, 3,000m and 4x400m relay will all take place on this concluding day, in addition to the women's 60m and long jump, plus the men's high jump and triple jump, and the conclusion of the heptathlon. With commentary and analysis from Steve Backley, Steve Cram, Colin Jackson, Denise Lewis and Paula Radcliffe.

7.00 Robot Wars. New series. Dara Ó Briain and Angela Scanlon present the first group heat, with eight teams battling it out for a place in the grand final. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce.

8.00 Top Gear. New series. Another helping of four-wheel features, including test drives and reports on the latest models, plus a celebrity taking to the show's test track in Star in a Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. The seven remaining contestants arrive in Australia for the final challenge, where they undergo training with the Special Air Service Regiment – but must first undergo a gruelling exercise to see if they are physically prepared for what is to come. Those that make it through this stage face tactical interrogation and an endurance race wearing weighted rucksacks. Last in the series.

10.00 Film: London Road. (2015) Premiere. Ipswich residents' real accounts of a series of murders committed in their neighbourhood are presented in song. Fact-based musical, starring Olivia Colman and Tom Hardy.

11.30 Film: Papillon. (1973) A Frenchman imprisoned for life on Devil's Island for a crime he did not commit makes a desperate bid for freedom. Fact-based drama, starring Steve McQueen.

1.55 Taboo. (R) **2.55** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.55** Holby City. (R) **4.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **8.20** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Teen Titans Go! (R) **9.05** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.25** Chopping Block. (R) **12.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.35** The Voice UK. (R) **2.50** Little Big Shots. (R) **3.50** The Chase. (R) **4.50** Tipping Point. (R) **5.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving the planet from any potential alien invasion. (R)

6.40 Five Gold Rings. New series. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which contestants compete to identify images on an LED floor while viewers can play along using the series app.

7.45 The Voice UK. The second live knockout show, which sees three of Tom Jones' acts eliminated, while the others go through to a place in the quarter final. Jennifer Hudson performs in the studio.

9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. Lydia and Ruby visit a convent to make a seemingly miraculous diagnosis, but the treatment of a young nun and the senior doctor's interfering attitude creates tension between them.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 The Nightly Show Best Bits. New series. Highlights from the previous week.

10.50 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (R)

11.50 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 17th round of fixtures, including Leicester Tigers v Exeter Chiefs, Bath v Wasps, and Newcastle Falcons v Saracens.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Chopping Block. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **3.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.00** Channel 4 News. **4.30 Film:** Fantastic Four. (2005) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd.

6.30 The Jump. The remaining contestants compete for a place in the final, battling it out in the air jump, an event that requires them to gain the most height during a ski jump. They then move on to the Giant Slalom – the fastest event in the competition, on a much longer and steeper course than previous slalom events. Presented by Davina McCall.

8.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman. The presenter explores the Severn, Britain's longest river, which flows through both England and Wales. Along the way, he explores the largest ship graveyard in the country, meets the last practitioners of an unusual form of fishing, and takes part in a coracle regatta. He finally reaches the source of the river, where he meets a local poet.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie follows a lead, Saul meets an old friend, and Keane takes a stand. Starring Claire Danes, Rupert Friend and Mandy Patinkin.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz as Sean Lock and Henning Wehn compete against Jon Richardson and Victoria Coren Mitchell. (R)

12.00 Film: Broken City. (2013) A New York private eye hired to find out if the mayor's wife is having an affair discovers a web of political corruption. Crime thriller, with Mark Wahlberg and Russell Crowe. **2.00** The Last Leg. With Rob Delaney and Sharon Horgan. (R) **2.55** Under Lock and Key. The stories of families whose loved ones are locked away in hospitals. (R) **3.50** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. A pink property in Southend-on-Sea. (R) **4.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.55** Rupert Bear. (R) **7.05** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.25** Little Princess. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.20** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.20** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.50 Film:** The Fifth Element. (1997) **2.10 Film:** Spies Like Us. (1985) **4.10** Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) **5.10** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R)

6.05 Inside Windsor Castle. Documentary marking the centenary of the Windsor dynasty by examining the history of the royal residence over the past 80 years, beginning with the fire of 1992. (R)

7.00 Inside Windsor Castle. A look back at the series of events that shaped the monarchy between 1936 and 1952, using dramatic reconstructions and an extraordinary archive of film. (R)

8.00 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. New series. Cases include a woman with rental arrears of almost £3,000 after renting a house out, and a team investigates poor living conditions above a Birmingham shop.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Bruce Forsyth Story: From the Palladium to the Palace. New series. A look back at the entertainer's 75 years in showbiz, featuring candid interviews with Forsyth and contributions from biographers, colleagues and famous fans.

10.30 An Audience with Bruce Forsyth. The versatile veteran entertainer reveals his many talents in a feast of song and dance before a VIP audience, who quiz him about his remarkable career. (R)

11.35 Bruce Forsyth's Comedy Heroes. The entertainer discusses his favourite comics. (R)

12.35 Peter Kay: The Early Years. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) **4.00** When Kids Kill: Catfish Killer. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Sound of Song **8.00** Kiri Te Kanawa at the BBC **9.00 Film:** The Hunt (2012) **10.50** Sound Waves: The Symphony of Physics **11.50** Every Breath We Take: Understanding Our Atmosphere **12.50** Timeshift: Hurricanes and Heatwaves – The Highs and Lows of British Weather **1.45** Mumbai High: The Musical **2.50** Kiri Te Kanawa at the BBC **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.45 The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome: 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Fame High **2.05** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.30** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.50** You've Been Framed! Gold: Top 100 Holidays **3.50** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Ibiza Weekender **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.45 Film: The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50 Film:** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **2.35** Inspector Morse **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.55** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Carry On Forever **11.05 Film:** Carry On Camping (1969) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Carry On Camping (1969) **12.55** Inspector Morse **2.45** Wycliffe **3.40** May the Best House Win **5.25** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
12.45 Live Darts: UK Open. The quarter-finals at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **5.00** Pawn Stars **5.55** Fishing Impossible **7.00** Live Darts: UK Open. The semi-finals and final at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **11.00 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.55** The Football Mavericks **1.55** I Want That Car **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 The Jump **1.40 Film:** Step Up (2006) **3.40** The Goldbergs **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **7.00 Film:** Unstoppable (2010) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00 Film:** The Grey (2011) **12.15** Celebs Go Dating **2.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.05** Gap Year **3.55** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The First Film (2015) **1.25** Hugo (2011) **3.50** Carry On Behind (1975) **5.35** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **7.15** Johnny English (2003) **9.00** Mr Turner (2014) **11.55** Cheap Thrills (2013) **1.40** Wrong Turn at Tahoe (2009) **3.30** Close

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra, Channel 5, 11.05pm
When a powerful experimental weapon is snatched by a mysterious terrorist organisation, two of the soldiers guarding it are recruited into a top-secret military strike force. As they go in search of the stolen technology, they uncover a plot by its creator to take over the world. Action adventure, with Channing Tatum and Sienna Miller. (2009)

TUESDAY
Deadly Pursuit, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An Alaskan wilderness guide visits a friend in LA, where he meets and falls in love with a well-off city girl. She clearly feels the same because when he returns home, she decides to follow him – only to come up against his ex-girlfriend and a sinister drug operation. Romantic thriller, starring KC Clyde. (2015)

WEDNESDAY
Two Wrongs, Channel 5, 3.20pm
Nurse and single mother Sarah struggles to balance her work and home life, but her worst nightmare is realised when her daughter Lauren is abducted while walking home alone from school and she faces a moral dilemma if she is to save her child. Thriller, starring Gillian Zinser. (2015)

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

THURSDAY
Perfect Life, Perfect Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Four young women meet up at a school reunion, where they unearth a time capsule in which they buried their deepest, darkest secrets. Inside the box is a revelation that unlocks the mystery of a tragic death 10 years earlier. Thriller, starring Kacey Clarke. (2016)

FRIDAY
Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, BBC1, 10.35pm
A buccaneer and a blacksmith commandeer a British ship and set sail in pursuit of a pirate captain who has kidnapped a colonial governor's daughter. However, their quarry and his crew are under a curse that turns them into living skeletons – and makes them impossible to kill. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley and Geoffrey Rush. (2003)

Harry's new series is out of this world

Only a fevered imagination such as that belonging to Harry Hill could come up with the format of this extraordinary show.

Each week, two teams of celebrity guests are presented with an unusual task – to find a way of saving Earth from invasion and possible destruction by rogue aliens.

Often, when such a threat is depicted in a science fiction TV show or film, the extra-terrestrials seem to think they can take over the planet because humans are either a pushover or not worthy of their consideration – Hill wants to prove we're neither of those things by finding items that prove we are all good fun and therefore should be saved.

Along the way there are lots of gags, sketches and special guests who look on as amusing items are put forward for Hill's perusal – he ultimately decides what should be included in the Fun Capsule, and the more a team manages to have submitted, the more likely they are to win the game.

"It's great to be back on ITV with an all new format that finally tackles the problem of an imminent and prolonged war with space aliens, by proving to them that us humans are really a lot of fun to hang out with!" grins the comedian.

The channel's comedy commissioning editor Saskia Schuster adds: "We're really excited to have Harry back on ITV, and we're confident that the human race will be safe in his hands with this brand new panel show packed with laughs, silliness and of course, fun."

The keyword when it comes to this series is certainly 'silly,' but while some may think it's a derogatory term, it's actually used in its most positive sense here.

The world is a dark and scary place at the moment, and sometimes being able to forget our woes by just being plain daft is a wonderful thing, so Hill should carry on the good work as long as is humanly possibly!

Last week's opening edition was both bonkers and hilarious in equal measure, and there's no reason to think that this one won't be either. If anything, this week's promises to be even better thanks to an appearance by Kathy Burke; she rarely pops up on TV these days, so when she does, you know it's for something both close to her heart and worth tuning in for.

Although she has appeared in many dramatic roles, Burke remains best known for her comedy appearances alongside Harry Enfield, as well as Absolutely Fabulous, Gimme Gimme Gimme and Walking and Talking, a sitcom based on her own teenage experiences.

It's quite a coup to have tempted Burke back to TV – we suspect she may be a fan of Hill's and so keen to work with him.

She will be joined on the show by celebrity chef and TV personality Ainsley Harriott (will Percy Pepper and Susie Salt make it into the capsule? Stranger things have happened), comedian Joe Lycett and morning talk show host Lorraine Kelly.

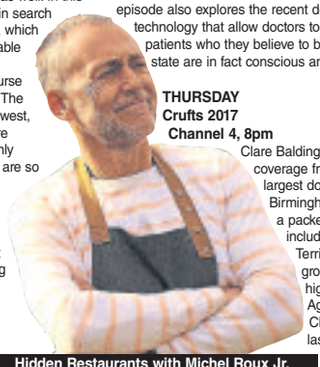
Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule, Thursday, ITV, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Mutiny
Channel 4, 9pm
New series. Nine men recreate a voyage by William Bligh in 1789, when he and his loyal crewmen crossed 4,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean from Tonga to Timor after being cast adrift from HMS Bounty by mutinying seamen and left for dead. SAS: Who Dares Wins chief instructor Anthony Middleton is in charge of a crew of eight made up of sailors and complete novices, attempting the journey in a replica 23ft open wooden boat, with similar equipment and the same rations of food and water that Bligh's men had. Continues tomorrow.

TUESDAY
The Secret Life of the Zoo
Channel 4, 8pm
At Chester Zoo, Rothschild giraffe Tula is a week overdue after a 13-month pregnancy. But keepers are anxious that history could repeat itself - she gave birth to a stillborn calf last year. Cameras also follow this year's brood of penguin chicks. They are about to face the ordeal of joining the main pool, where they must compete for fish with the adult penguins. And baby silvery gibbon Eko learns how to swing between ropes - 50 feet up. All the keepers can do is watch anxiously from below.

WEDNESDAY
Hidden Restaurants with Michel Roux Jr
Channel 4, 8pm
It seems that for some chefs it's not quite enough to serve up new and unusual dishes – they want their restaurants to be out of the ordinary as well. In this new series, Michel Roux Jr is going in search of some of Britain's ësecret' eateries, which are hidden within some truly remarkable locations. He's hoping the visits will inspire him as he creates a three-course menu for his own hidden restaurant, The Oast House. He begins in the south-west, where he ventures into a forest before checking out a floating café that is only accessible by boat. It turns out there are so many of these hidden gems, Michel needs help finding them all, so he also recruits Freddy Bird, who once transformed a dilapidated lido in Bristol into a restaurant, to check out some other unlikely venues, including a Latin American 'bustaurant.'


Hidden Restaurants with Michel Roux Jr, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

The House That £100K Built
BBC2, 8pm
Surgeon Gabriel Weston investigates the most complex and mysterious part of the human body, the brain, meeting with extraordinary people with seemingly superhuman abilities. Dr Weston meets Derek, a man who was suddenly able to play piano after a head injury, and Paul, who has a hereditary genetic condition which means he can't feel pain. This episode also explores the recent developments in technology that allow doctors to identify if patients who they believe to be in a vegetative state are in fact conscious and aware.

THURSDAY
Crufts 2017
Channel 4, 8pm
Clare Balding presents further coverage from the world's largest dog show at Birmingham NEC, where a packed programme includes judging of the Terrier and Hound groups and highlights of the Agility and Flyball. Clare also meets last year's Crufts winner Devon, who is competing in the Eukanuba World Challenge – a league of nations-style competition for top winners from different countries. Kate Beavan and Nim Patel team up to talk about dog health and welfare, Iwan Thomas reports on dog socialisation, and there's an appearance from cat-detection dog Molly.

FRIDAY
The Gadget Show
Channel 5, 7pm
Actor, presenter, voiceover man, comedian, DJ, poet and jungle inhabitant – is there anything Craig Charles cannot turn his hand to? For the next 12 weeks Charles will anchor the revamped Gadget Show from its new studio base in Birmingham. Tonight, the show's other new host, tech journalist Georgie Barrat, kicks off a series-long challenge in which she endeavours to see if gadgets can improve the performance of Monkey Tree FC – an amateur football team hovering near the bottom of Division Two of the East Midlands Public Authorities League. Jon Bentley finds out how snappy Samsung's new 360 camera is by testing it out at a 'wall of death,' filming motorcycles whizzing round a circular vertical wall at 40mph. Finally, Craig inboxes a brand-new Nintendo Switch, the much-hyped new games console, just one week after its worldwide launch.

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10/4/17	5 Days	Paignton	Queens Hotel
10/4/17	5 Days	Torquay	Headland Hotel
14/4/17	4 Days	Tenby	Clarence Hotel
15/4/17	3 Days	Tall Ships (London)	Park Hotel
17/4/17	5 Days	Eastbourne	Imperial Hotel
17/4/17	5 Days	Isle Of Wight	Ocean View Hotel
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18/4/17	8 Days	Channel Islands	3 Hotels
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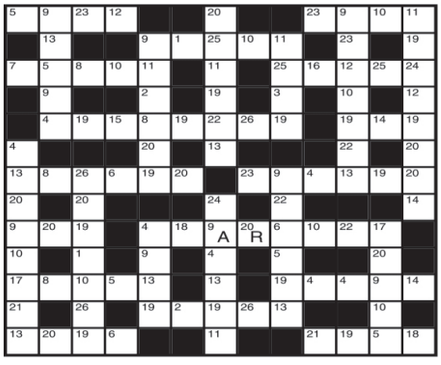
BRAIN GYM No.418

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
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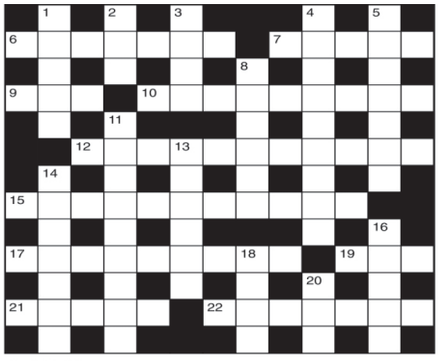
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	Q	R	O	E	B	T	C	I	L	W	Y	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	P	S	F	V	G	D	M	N	X	H	A	U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Sole reinforcement (7)
7. Fish appears to be off! (5)
9. Animal found in decreasing numbers (3)
10. Holder of the post (6,3)
12. He tries to prevent ill-feeling among the crew (5,6)
15. Injury for which there is no earthly cure (6,5)
17. Eats in bar, perhaps, but he won't drink in one (9)
19. Howl for a type of rum (3)
21. Silly Annie gets confused (5)
22. Go ahead and give someone money (7)

Down

1. Certain to jump (5)
2. Close finish (3)
3. Asbestos should contain it (4)
4. They're a blend of the main races (9)
5. Its strength can be shown by proof (7)
8. The artist's sitting room (6)
11. It may give an edge to the news, possibly (9)
13. Wan friend takes cover (6)
14. Get together - for getting in the harvest (7)
16. Game that may come alight? (5)
18. A boy naturally opposed to the current trend (4)
20. He's had plenty of time to insulate the boiler (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Income (7)
7. Advance (3,2)
9. Purchase (3)
10. Solemnize (9)
12. Association (11)
15. Calligraphy (11)
17. Dilatory one (9)
19. Attempt (3)
21. Haste (5)
22. Seer (7)

Down

1. Confute (5)
2. Acquire (3)
3. Heal (4)
4. Stand for (9)
5. Include (7)
8. Vanquish (6)
11. Made by hand (9)
13. Numbness (6)
14. Unfeeling (7)
16. Hail (5)
18. Trouble (4)
20. Fitting (3)

Sudoku

6			9		4	3		
5				6	3		7	
					2	9		
	5	6				8	4	
4	3			9			5	
	7	2			6	1		
		8	2					
			6	7		4		3
		9	4		8			1

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	5	7	3	1	8	6	9	4
6	4	9	5	7	2	3	1	8
8	1	3	4	6	9	7	2	5
5	3	8	9	2	6	4	7	1
7	9	1	8	3	4	2	5	6
4	2	6	1	5	7	9	8	3
3	7	2	6	8	5	1	4	9
9	6	5	2	4	1	8	3	7
1	8	4	7	9	3	5	6	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Made to measure; 8 Interred; 9 Item; 10 Chilli; 12 Latest; 14 Spiced; 16 Mishap; 18 Odes; 20 Comedian; 22 Get on together. Down: 1 Pawn shop; 2 Reveal; 3 Four; 4 Pendulum; 5 Assist; 6 Free; 11 Indicate; 13 Seafarer; 15 Custom; 17 Sedate; 19 Diet; 21 Magi.
QUICK - Across: 7 Temperamental; 8 Funereal; 9 Role; 10 Barrel; 12 Cleave; 14 Lessen; 16 Tubing; 18 Pair; 20 Timorous; 22 Supplementary. Down: 1 Regulate; 2 Appear; 3 Urge; 4 Implicit; 5 Untrue; 6 Wail; 11 Lengthen; 13 Vanguard; 15 Stripe; 17 Berate; 19 Abut; 21 Meek.

Quiz

1. From which post did John Profumo resign in 1963?
2. Who wrote the allegory The Pilgrim's Progress?
3. In which country are the Pampas Plains?
4. Which bird is called the chickadee in America?
5. Of what is agaric a type?
6. By what name do we know Michel de Nostredame?
7. What is a quebracho?
8. Which sport contests the Pilkington Cup?
9. Which prominent politician was in the band Ugly Rumours in the 70s?
10. What type of bird is a condor?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Inuits; 2 Sir Anthony Hopkins; 3 USA and Great Britain; 4 Click beetle; 5 Puma; 6 George Foreman; 7 Canada; 8 Franklin D Roosevelt; 9 Italy; 10 Anatoly Karpov.

Niner: DOVETAILS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6347 gives a bird,
9728 gives a second bird,
651172 gives a third bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Play | Learn | Have fun | Explore | Make new friends | Adventure

FREE childcare for 2 year olds in Sandwell

Your 2 year old may be able to get up to 15 hours free childcare a week during term time.

That's 15 hours a week to learn through play, make their first friends, sing, dance, dress up and have lots of fun.

That's also 15 hours a week for you to have a break, spend more time with your younger children, get stuff done around the house, study or look for work.

To find out more please contact Sandwell Family Information Service 0121 569 4914 or visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/freechildcare

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Sandwell Family Information Service

Make a night of it

Olly's at the Genting on Thursday, March 23 and our hearts are skipping a beat at the very thought of it. The Ticket's here to help you enjoy your date with the Troublemaker giving you the lowdown on all the best places to be. . .

A real Gent – where would Olly go before a big night out?

EAT UP

Simple supper or fancy food, whatever tickles your tastebuds there's a dining destination to be found at Resorts World. But where would Olly go? We reckon he'd be up for a quick bite at TGI Friday's, with its American inspired fodder, it's grilling stuff. Think Chicken wings, Cajun shrimp, Jack Daniel's sesame mushroom strips and pulled pork sundae washed down with a bottle of Bud.

IN THE DRINK

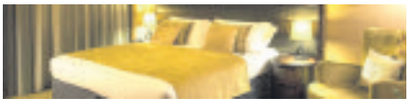
There's no point waiting around feeling at a loose end before it's show time, Olly's a cheeky chappy and he's sure to be first up for a bevvie or two.

Head to the The World Bar where there are more than 40 craft beers on offer from ales and stouts to lagers and even beer cocktails.

Fancy a Jewellery Porter with a complex taste of coffee, chocolate and toffee with a delightful array of subtle fruit notes?

Yes please, we'll drink to that.

PILLOW TALK



LUXURY LAYOVER

Splash out and make a night of it and stay at the recently opened Genting Hotel right on site. Prices start from £97 to £297 so it's up to you if you go a little crazy on a room or completely wild in a snazzy suite. With bars, restaurant and a spa you could even make a weekend of it. If it's a night with the girls, enjoy some treatments and make yourself beautiful before you see Olly in action and then dream about him later as you slumber in style.

CHEAP SLEEPS

If you're strapped for cash then save your pennies by catching your zzzs at the Premier Inn which is a 25-minute walk away from the Genting. From only £35 a night it won't stretch your budget leaving you some spare cash for drinks and if you're a really big fan, any Olly merch from the gig. If he spots you in an I 'heart' Olly T-shirt he may well ask: "Dance With Me Tonight!"

TRAVEL LIGHT

WHERE TO PARK

Driving to the gig? Then there's loads of space to park right by the arena. Even better, if you pre-pay, you can avoid the queues at the payment kiosk and get to your seat a little bit quicker. No chance of you missing the support act either.

ON TRACK

If you fancy a few drinks or don't want to be stuck in traffic jams before or after the gig, then there's no need to drive. Trains run direct to Birmingham NEC from across the region making it easy peasy to get there on time.

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For more information or to book, please call: 01902 902165

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Modern and spacious four-bedroomed home for sale

This highly attractive, modern and spacious home on the border with Wednesbury – is ideal for a family.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £200,000.

With four bedrooms, the rest of the accommodation briefly includes an entrance hall, a guest WC, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a modern bathroom, master en-suite shower room, gas central heating, a garage, enclosed rear garden and parking.

This property in Great Bridge Road lies on the very border of Bilston and Wednesbury, making it an ideal location for the best of both areas.

In more detail the entrance hall has a guest WC off. The lounge is a spacious room with secondary glazing to the front and side aspects and stairs off to the first floor.

With a modern range of fitted wall and base units, the kitchen/diner includes an integrated dishwasher and electric oven, working surfaces incorporating a stainless steel bowl sink with drainer, a four-ring gas hob with splash-back plate and extractor above, tiled flooring, double glazed French doors and window to the rear aspect, plumbing for a washing machine, ceiling spotlights and under-stairs storage.

Upstairs, the landing has loft access and an airing cupboard. The master bedroom has a window with secondary glazing to the frontage and an en-suite shower room including a chrome heated towel rail.

Also with a window with secondary glazing overlooking the front of this home, bedroom two comes with fitted wardrobes, while bedroom three overlooks the rear and bedroom four overlooks the front.

The bathroom has a white suite of a panel bath with an electric shower, a hand wash basin, WC, part tiled walls and ceiling spotlights.

Outside to the front of the home is a pleasant garden with an enclosed laid lawn area and tarmac driveway providing parking for three vehicles, leading up to garage.

The rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with a small patio area and panel fencing.

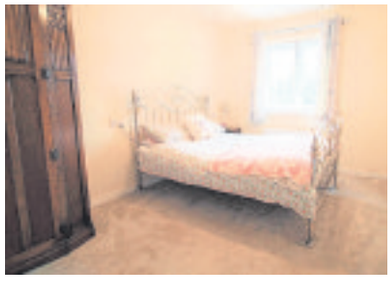
KEY FEATURES

- Modern & spacious
- 4 bedrooms
- Bathroom & en-suite
- Garage & parking
- Garden

WEDNESBURY/BILSTON BORDER £200,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Goodchilds
TEL: 01902 267111
EMAIL: wolverhampton@goodchilds-uk.com



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Semi-detached is an ideal first-time buy

ETTINGSHALL

£89,950

This extended traditional semi-detached home in Spring Road, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton, is an ideal first-time buy or investment property.

It is for sale through Rees Page at £89,950 with no chain. A full-width extension has created spacious ground floor accommodation. With gas central heating and double glazing and off-road parking, it has a porch, a lobby hall with staircase off to the first floor, a lounge with a bay window, kitchen/diner and a pantry, garden room, bathroom/WC, three bedrooms and front and rear gardens.

Contact Rees Page on 01902 577775.

Bungalow for sale with sitting tenant has no chain

OXLEY

£145,000 <<<

This wonderful three-bedroomed semi-detached bungalow in Church Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton, is for sale through Goodchilds at £145,000 with no chain.

The property is currently to be sold with a reliable sitting tenant.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance porch, an entrance hallway, three bedrooms, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a utility room, a family bathroom, an enclosed rear garden and off-road parking. The property sits close to local amenities and ideal transport links. Interested would-be buyers are being urged to book a viewing fast, in order to appreciate just how much this home has to offer.

Call Goodchilds on 0844 800 9404.

Forthcoming Auction

Cottons CHARTERED SURVEYORS

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NEW

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Delightful Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £219,950

NEW

Northfield Road, Harborne

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Requires Modernisation
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £144,950

NEW

Portland Road, Edgbaston

- Dormer Bugalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offeres in the region of £249,950

NEW

Wyndham Road, Edgbaston

- Chamring End Of Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Garage
- Excellent Location For Access To The City Centre
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £147,000

NEW

Mariner Avenue, Edgbaston

- Beautifully Presented Mid Terrace
- Ideally Situated For Acces To The City Centre
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen And Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £199,950

NEW

Elsma Road, Oldbury

- Detached Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £199,950

NEW PRICE

Cemetery Road, Smethwick

- Ideal First Purchase
- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Beautifully Presented
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,500

NEW PRICE

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £194,950

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Hagley Road 0121 429 9986

Three-bed home with good transport links

FORDHOUSES
£199,950

Situated in a popular residential location with good access to the M54 and M6 motorways, this extended three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Stafford Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £199,950.

To the ground floor, the property has an extended lounge with views to the rear garden, a modern fitted kitchen, a separate dining room and a garage with a utility area.

To the first floor there are three good-sized bedrooms and a modern family bathroom with a luxury bath and a separate shower cubicle. The home also has double glazing, central heating, an enclosed rear garden and driveway parking leading to the garage. Internal viewing highly recommended.

Contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257.

Traditional detached residence with no chain

WOLVERHAMPTON
£239,000 <<<

A traditional detached residence in the popular western fringe of Wolverhampton in Bhylls Lane, Merry Hill, is for sale through Rees Page at £239,000 with no chain.

This spacious and well-presented accommodation should be viewed to fully appreciate its size and further potential.

With majority double glazing and gas central heating it has a block-paved driveway and a tandem garage, a storm porch, reception hall, a lounge with a bay window, tiled fireplace and laminate flooring, a dining room with a tiled fireplace, a breakfast room, a kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom. To the rear is a mature garden with an extensive patio area, lawn, borders and a variety of trees plus rear door to garage.

For further information contact Rees Page on 01902 577775.

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WEST BROMWICH

Temple Meadows Road **£210,000**

A three bedroom semi detached property situated in a sought after area comprising of upstairs family shower room, lounge, extended kitchen with seating area, garage to side, enclosed rear garden, double glazing, central heating (where specified). EPC Rating C.

Canterbury Road West Bromwich **£130,000**

This three bedroom semi detached property is situated in a residential area with plenty of local shops and schools nearby. The property offers a lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified), rear garden and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C.

Lawley Street West Bromwich **£125,000**

A 3 bedroom traditional style semi detached house briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner and an upstairs family bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing (where specified),gardens to front and rear and off road parking. EPC Rating E.

Marnham Road West Bromwich **£230,000**

A well maintained and beautifully presented three bedroom townhouse, comprising of modern fitted kitchen, generous lounge, downstairs cloakroom,first floor Jack and Jill Bathroom,spacious master bedroom with dressing area, fitted wardrobes and en-suite. Garage to side and off road parking, double glazing and central heating (where specified). EPC Rating B.

Roebuck Lane West Bromwich **£150,000**

A traditional style three bedroom semi detached property in a prime location being just moments away from the town centre and M5. This property offers two reception rooms, family bathroom and off road parking. EPC Rating E.

Bridge Street West Bromwich **£165,000**

This three bedroom semi detached property is within close proximity to West Brom town centre and offers a through lounge, fitted kitchen, guest WC, family bathroom, central heating, double glazing (where specified), garage and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D.

Sussex Avenue West Bromwich **£125,000**

This two bedroom property is the perfect starter home. It offers heaps of living space as well as a driveway for two cars. The property is located in a residential area with plenty of public transport and local shops nearby. EPC Rating C.

Princess Grove West Bromwich **£115,000**

This two bedroom mid terraced property offers two reception rooms, fitted kitchen,bathroom with separate WC, double glazing, central heating (where specified) and off road parking. EPC Rating C.

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WEDNESBURY

Large Avenue Wednesbury £179950

An extended four bedroom semi detached house situated on a generous corner plot. The property is located in a cul-de-sac and benefits from lounge, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, shower room, garage, rear and side garden and off road parking.

Woden Road East Wednesbury £229500

Situated in a sought after location VIEWING IS ESSENTIAL to appreciate this refurbished three bedroom detached bungalow. The property briefly comprising of entrance porch leading to entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen diner, shower room, laundry area, bathroom, enclosed rear garden and driveway.

Sandys Grove Tipton £129,950

●OPEN HOUSE EVENT - CALL FOR YOUR VIEWING SLOT - ALSO INCLUDED IN OUR BUYERS INCENTIVE CAMPAIGN ASK FOR INFO● A beautifully presented two bedroom semi detached property in a culdesac & on corner plot. Property comprises lounge, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom, garden, double driveway.

Addenbrooke Street Darlaston £89950

A three bedroom mid terraced property IN NEED OF REFURBISHMENT. The property comprises of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, down stairs bathroom, enclosed rear garden and NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Franchise Street Wednesbury £159950

A well maintained three bedroom semi detached property situated on a generous corner plot. The property comprises of through lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, first floor shower room, enclosed rear garden, off road parking and NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Are you still unsold and not receiving high volumes of viewings? Or are you thinking of selling your property? Why not challenge Connells Wednesbury your number one sales office to sell your property in our 6 week challenge. No challenge is too big for your number one office.

We'd be delighted to provide you with a FREE market appraisal to explain why we're the number one agent in your town. Call us on 0121 556 2338 for more information or email us on Wednesbury@Connells.co.uk

Johnson Road Darlaston £129950

A three bedroom extended property in a cul-de-sac location with no upward chain making an ideal first time purchase. Property comprises of lounge, breakaft kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, front and rear garden, detached garage, double glazing and central heating. Viewing is advised to appreciate.

Victory Avenue Darlaston £125000

LOOKING FOR A GENEROUS PLOT LOOK NO FURTHER! - A three bedroom semi detached property on an impressive plot with excessive off road parking. Property has lounge, kitchen diner, study / 2nd reception room, downstairs WC, upstairs bathroom, rear garden, single glazing, NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Dangerfield Lane Darlaston £210000

●●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●●●A fantastic opportunity to purchase this three bedroom detached house. The property comprises of entrance porch, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room, downstairs w/c, en suite to master bedroom, family bathroom, driveway, garage and enclosed rear garden.

Paul Street, Wednesbury £90,000

●SOLD WITHIN 24 HOURS AND ON THE FIRST VIEWING!● Viewing advised on this well presented first floor appartment. The accommodation comprises: lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, shower room and study.

Carrington Road, Wednesbury £125,000

●ANOTHER HOUSE SOLD IN LESS THAN 7 DAYS OVER ASKING PRICE BY OUR OPEN HOUSE EVENT - CALL CONNELLS ESTATE AGENTS YOUR NUMBER ONE AGENT IN WEDNESBURY HOW WE CAN HELP YOU SELL YOURS!● A beautiful mid terrace property, being an ideal starter home.

Charlotte Road Wednesbury £110,000

SOLD IN 6 WEEKS CHALLENGE AFTER BEING ONLINE WITH ANOTHER AGENT FOR 6 MONTHS! STRUGGLING TO SELL? CALL CONNELLS FOR A FREE VALUATION. A three bedroom extended property being an ideal first time purchase.

Kent Road Wednesbury £134950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT ON THE FIRST VIEWING IN LESS THAN 7 DAYS. A modern two bedroom semi detached property on the popular woods etstate.

The Rea, Mill Street, Tipton £100,796

A stunning range of two bedroom semi detached properties by Mar City homes. Call Connells to view on 01215562338. ●£100,796 HELP TO BUY PRICE - £125,996 NORMAL PRICE● PLOT 29 THE REA - PLOT OF THE WEEK REDUCED BY £2000!

CastleView Court, WS10 8SE

Castleview Court, Wednesbury, Moxely, WS10 8SE. The development offers a stunning range of two, three and four bedroom homes. Property comprises of three bedrooms, master having en-suite, lounge, kitchen diner, downstairs wc, bathroom, driveway for two vehicles, rear garden, double glazing & central heating. Help to buy is available. Call us for more information.

Leabrook Road Wednesbury £180,000

Connells Estate Agents in Wednesbury are pleased to release a range of four BRAND NEW two bedroom detached bungalows. Accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, off road parking, double glazing and central heating. Reservations are being taken now

Tame Road Wednesbury £130,000

A range of five, two bedroom properties comprising spacious accommodation throughout overlooking the River Tame. Comprising Kitchen diner, d-stairs WC, family bathroom, two double bedrooms, off road parking and rear garden. ●YOURS FROM AS LITTLE AS £103996 WITH HELP TO BUY●

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GREAT BRIDGE

Oval Road, Tipton, DY4

£87,950

PUBLIC NOTICEPaul Dubberley are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £87,000 for 86 Oval Road, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 9RU. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Paul Dubberley 73 Great Bridge Tipton West Midlands DY4 7HF 0121 522 3733 before exchange of contracts

Elizabeth Walk, Tipton, DY4

£59,950

PURPOSE BUILT GROUND FLOOR Flat Situated In a most SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION. Ideal for first time buyer or buy to let investment, whilst having the benefit of upvc double glazing. 1 Bedroom

Wrens Hill Road, Dudley, DY1

£105,950

Semi Detached Home Occupying a corner plot, whilst being ideal for a first time buyer or buy to let. Having the benefit of upvc windows, gas central heating. 3 Bedrooms

Quayside Walk, Dudley, DY2

£105,000

Modern Purpose built Ground Floor Luxury Apartment with Fantastic Canal Views. superbly presented accommodation for which viewing is highly recommended and no upward chain. 2 Bedrooms ● En Suite

Warren Close, Tipton, DY4

£65,000

Purpose Built First Floor Flat offering spacious accommodation and being ideal for a buy to let investment. Offering the benefit of gas central heating, no upward chain and good location. 2 Bedrooms

Park Street, Tipton, DY4

£119,950

Spacious Middle Terrace Offering the benefit of upvc double glazing and gas central heating. EXCELLENT SIZE family accommodation and situated in a SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION. 3 Bedrooms

Newhall Street, Tipton, DY4

£114,950

Superbly Presented Semi Detached Family Home having the benefit of upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Immaculate spacious accommodation for which viewing is highly recommended. 3 Bedrooms

Monins Avenue, Tipton, DY4

£65,000

Modern FIRST FLOOR Apartment LARGER THAN AVERAGE Accommodation. GOOD LOCATION whilst having the benefit of gas central heating and NO UPWARD CHAIN. 1 Bedroom

Mills Walk, Tipton, DY4

£108,000

End Terrace situated on an excellent corner plot offering scope for extensions (STP). Having the benefit of upvc double glazing, blow air central heating and making a good family home. 3 Bedrooms

Lindley Avenue, Tipton, DY4

£120,000

Impressive Extended Traditional Semi Detached, sought after area providing good family accommodation. Offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating, extended accommodation. 3 Bedrooms

Large Avenue, WEDNESBURY, WS10

£179,950

<p>SUMMARYEXTENDED FAMILY HOME OFFERING four bedrooms situated on a generous corner plot and located in a cul-de-sac, comprising of through lounge, fitted kitchen diner , family bathroom,

Woden Road North, Wednesbury, WS10

£145,000

<p>SUMMARYVIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate the accommodation on offer this family home situated in a popular residential area of Wednesbury close to all local amenities including local shops,

Birmingham Street, Wednesbury, WS10

£180,000

<p>SUMMARYVIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED TO FULLY APPRECIATE THIS WONDERFULLY MAINTAINED TRADITIONAL STYLE DETACHED FAMILY HOME OFFERED TO THE MARKET WITH NO

Old Park Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£150,000

<p>SUMMARYA lovely 3 bedroom FAMILY HOME OFFERING NO CHAIN. The property is in a popular location surrounded by local ameneties and schools. The property also offers easy access

St Lukes Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£69,950

<p>SUMMARYFantastic 1 bedroom ground floor apartment with its own entrance porch offers modern decor, great transport links and conveniently close to all local shops and schools.DESCRIPTION/

Rooth Street, Wednesbury, WS10

£240,000

<p>SUMMARYBeautifully presented semi-detached property having spacious accommodation throughout. A mixture of characterful features and modern fittings have been used to make this exceptional

Vicar Street, Wednesbury, WS10

£109,950

<p>SUMMARYTRADITIONAL END TERRACED property with 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS. The property is located close to Wednesbury town, has great transport links being close to the MOTORWAY, BUS

Blenheim Drive, Wednesbury, WS10

£85,000

<p>SUMMARYModern TWO BEDROOM 2nd floor apartment. Close to all local amenities and GREAT TRANSPORT LINKS.DESCRIPTIONA fantastic 2nd floor apartment offering

Myvod Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£129,950

<p>SUMMARYWELL PRESENTED & CHAIN FREE - A smart semi detached residence featuring three bedrooms, lounge, contemporary style kitchen with dining space & first floor bathroom.

Delville Close, Wednesbury, WS10

£60,000

<p>SUMMARYGROUND FLOOR MAISONETTE - NO CHAIN. Accommodation featuring one double bedroom, lounge, kitchen & shower room. Externally, there are communal grounds.DESCRIPTION/

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Duke Street **£230,000**

Five bedroom detached property; Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, first floor bathroom, En-Suite, garage, double glazing, central heating, off road parking, front & rear gardens

Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich, B70 **£175,000**

A three bedroom semi-detached house, hall, four reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs wet room and an upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing, off road parking and gardens

Church Vale, West Bromwich, B71 **£175,000**

A beautifully designed, traditional 3 bed property, which must be viewed internally to be appreciated, two receptions, upstairs bathroom, front & rear gardens

Temple Meadows Road, West Bromwich, B71 **£170,000**

A three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of a porch, entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, sun room, upstairs bathroom, central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, driveway, garage

Edwin Phillips Drive, WEST BROMWICH, B71 **£155,000**

THIS PROPERTY IS NOW SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT, HOWEVER, WE HAVE A NUMBER OF DISAPPOINTED BUYERS!! CALL US NOW FOR YOUR FREE MARKET APPRAISAL

Tame Street, West Bromwich, B70 **£140,000**

A two bedroom mid terraced property briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, downstairs WC, lounge, conservatory, kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, gardens to front and rear

Princess Road, Oldbury, B68 **£120,000**

A three bed mid terrace comprising of an entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, gardens to front and rear with off road parking

Harvills Hawthorn, West Bromwich, B70 **£115,000**

A three bedroom mid terraced house briefly comprising of a shared porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen and a downstairs bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gardens to front and rear & garage

Griffiths Road, West Bromwich, B71 **£115,000**

A two bedroom semi detached house, comprising of an entrance hallway, through lounge, kitchen, utility/sun room, upstairs bathroom, central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, off road parking, garage

Old Meeting Street, West Bromwich, B70 **£85,000**

A two bedroom top floor apartment, comprising of communal hallways and stairs leading to all upper floors, an entrance hallway, open plan lounge/kitchen, gas central heating, UPVC double glazing and allocated parking

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- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

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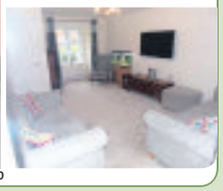
- Modern Throughout
- Four Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Master En-Suite
- Modern Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating



OIRO £190,000

NEW

King Street, Wednesbury
- Large Semi Detached
- Four/Five Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Study Room
- En-Suite
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Garage

Church Hill, Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

OIRO £155,000

Southgate Road, Birmingham
- Attention investors!
- In need of refurbishment
- Extended property
- Three bedrooms
- Off road parking
- Double glazed

Offers In The Region

No Chain

Coles Lane, West Bromwich
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Two Bedroom
- Semi Detached
- Living room
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Extended kitchen/diner

OIRO £124,950

Houliston Close, Wednesbury
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- Close to local amenities
- Two bedrooms
- Enclosed rear garden

OIRO £110,000

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Moor Street, Wednesbury
- Ideal for any first time buyer or investor
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- Decked area to rear garden
- Quiet location
- Close to local amenities
- Perfect for access to Birmingham

OIRO £100,000

Gough Street, Willenhall
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- On road parking
- Ideal for investors and first time buyers

OIRO £89,950

Blenheim Drive, Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Upper Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Double Glazed
- Allocated Parking

Offers in the region

Brookside, Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Second Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hallway
- Kitchen
- Living Room
- Family Bathroom

Offers in the region

Lunt Road, Bilston
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- In Need Of Modernisation

OIRO £79,950 12708076

Princess Grove, West Bromwich
- Upper Floor Maisonete
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Family Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Living Room

OIRO £80,000

St. Lukes Road, Wednesbury
- Modern Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Re-Styled Kitchen
- Re-Styled Shower Room
- Lounge/Diner
- Double Glazing

OIRO £69,950

Churchfield Avenue, Tipton
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Three Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating

OIEO £45,000

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NEW

Willenhall Street,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- Deposit on application
- Must view
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rentl of £575

NEW

Old Court House,Dudley
- One Bedroom
- Ground Floor
- Town Center
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Walk in Wardrobe
- Must view
- Sorry No DHSS

Monthly Rental of £375

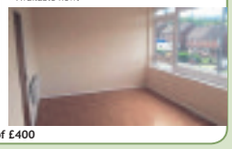
NEW

Arden Place,Bilston
- Brand new 4 Bedroom end terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas central heating
- Large rear garden

Monthly Rental £550

NEW

Hanover Road,Rowley Regis
- Two Bedroom Upper floor flat
- Large Lounge
- Laminate Flooring
- Fitted Bathroom
- DHSS ACCEPTED
- Half price fees!
- Deposit on application
- Available now!



Monthly Rental of £400

Darlaston road,Wednesbury
- Newly refurbished
- Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Dhss considered
- Resevation Fee - 250.00
- Processing Fee - 90.00 PP
- Admin Fee - 65.00

Monthly rental of £450

Talbot House,West Midlands
- One Bedroom upper Floor Flat
- Great Transport Links
- Fitted Kitchen
- Newly Decorated
- Electric Heating
- Town centre location
- Deposit on application
- Dhss accepted

Monthly rental of £300

Westbourne Court,Walsall
- Double Glazing
- Electric storage heating
- Ground Floor
- Secured Entrance
- Close To Darlaston Centre
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- Deposit on application
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental of £400

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- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- En Suite Bathroom to Master Bedroom
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

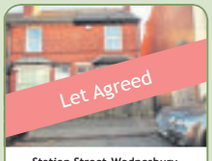
Monthly Rental £500

Trouse Lane,Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- DHSS Accepted
- Newly Redecorated
- Good Size Living Room
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Rear Parking

Monthly Rental £350

Wiley Road South,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- New Build First Floor
- Communal Entrance/Staircase
- Hallway
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Applicants Awaiting property of this style

Monthly rental £450



Station Street,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front Garden and Rear Gardens
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Applicants Awaiting property of this style

Monthly Rental £425

Hurstcroft Road,Birmingham
- Entrance Hallway
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Open Plan Living Area
- Small Front Garden
- Double Glazing

Monthly Rental £450

Tame Crossing,Wednesbury
- First Floor Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Living Room
- Two bedrooms
- Fitted Wardrobe
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental £495

Durham Road,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Double Glazing
- Gas central heating
- Fitted Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Off road parking

Monthly Rental £450

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● Flat felt roofing ● Tile, slate repairs
● Pointing, guttering, uPVC fascia
Free estimates - Written guarantee
SPECIAL RATES FOR O.A.P'S
Tel: 0121-556 4833 or 07944 326002

Tom Corbett Roofing Services
Telephone: 0121 5800915 Mobile: 07931 344199
- Flat Roof Repaired or Renewed
- Slate & Tile Repairs
- Ridge, Hip & Chimney Repointing
- Gutter Replacement & Cleaning

30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
FREE QUOTATIONS

A1 Little Job Man
(Part of the Imperial Residential Group)
Over 35 years experience
- Fast Roof Repairs • Felt Work & Guttering
- New Roofs Chimneys & Valleys
- uPVC Fascias & Guttering FREE Quotes
- All Building Work Undertaken
- All Work Guaranteed • All Areas Covered

FMB
0121 553 3020

ELITE PLASTICS
• Fascias • Sofits • Dry Verge
• Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
For A Free Quote call
01384 468831 / 07985 575865
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

Roofing

SMITHS Roofing
Family run business with over 30 years experience
- Tiling
- Slating
- Flat Roofing
- Sealing
- Pointing
- Lead work
- UPVC Fascia Cladding
- Ridges
- Flashing
- Guttering

OAP Discounts available
All work guaranteed
Tel: 0121 555 6542
07756 461267
FREE ESTIMATES

ALL WEATHER ROOFING
Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE
Over 30 years experience
0121 420 1582
NO CALL OUT CHARGE
Mobile Number: 07947 839451
allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk
allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

Rubbish Removal

ALWAYS V.S.K. RUBBISH REMOVAL
Household Waste, Shed & Garage Clearance
House & Garden Clearance
Tree Felling, Also Conifers Lopped
0121-532 2392
FREE QUOTES
West Bromwich

ROB'S RUBBISH
EST. 20 YEARS
A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 7 DAYS
Small Jobs NO PROBLEM
We load, No Skips
Free Estimates
Garden, Household, Shed, Garage, Fridges, White Goods, House Clearances
0121 500 6033

Skip Hire

RUSSELL'S SKIPS
MINI/MIDI SKIPS
(0121) 520 3388
07721 387990

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

To advertise your business and reach more than 61,597 potential customers...

1. Call us on... 01902 319590
2. E-mail us at... mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk
3. Post to... Mark Moore, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

funeral directors

When you need us we'll be there

The co-operative funeralcare
Central England Co-operative

24-26 Birmingham Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 4DS T: 0121 552 1170

359 High Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 9QG T: 0121 314 8964

www.centralengland.coop

1 Family

elderly & disabled

ELDERLY &DISABLED Hydro flex pressure relief /tilt chair£750 ono 01902 737748

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

2 Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call AEG on 01384 848439 or Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

BUCCANEER ELAN CARAVAN 24FT
Excellent condition, end shower plus toilet, cooker, fridge, sink, pull out awning.
£2,200.
07733 063247. 01543 505955.
Cannock

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996

WANTED
CARAVAN WANTED
Cash on pick up asap.
Caravan Wanted.
Call me any time on
07717 090817.

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for Sale on 5* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & pet friendly, 20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

what's on

markets

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701 All hard standing

3 Home & Services

furniture

katharine house hospice embracing life and living
Reg charity number: 1011712
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

FURNITURE NOT SOLD why not donate it to care for patients at Katharine House Hospice. Call us now on 01785 760715

LARGE CORNER SOFA SUITE
Stratus 111, modular.
From Next, soft plain dark mink,
excellent condition.
Only 2 months old.
Reduced to £590 ono.
Telephone 07818 084519.

household appliances

BOSCH WASHING machine, 7k load, 1400rpm, white, very good condition, £85. 01922 402172.

in your garden

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes WS3 2BQ
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

6x5 Lap Panels
£16 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

items for sale

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est.
Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
•Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED FOR CASH three piece suites, up to £100 paid Call 01785 815925/ 07947 627142.

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA MasterCard Checkatrade.com

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

bathrooms

JR Bathrooms & Wetrooms
Over 20 years experience in bathroom & kitchen installations.
TILING/PLASTERING/ FREE QUOTES
07392 379741 or 01543 529648

BATHROOM DESIGN. All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms. 07850 382548.

JR Bathrooms Over 20 years experience in bathrooms and plastering. 07392 379741 / 01543 529648.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

AD DAMP PROOFING
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
All damp problems, roofing, building & plastering work
FREE QUOTES
07538 118034 or 01902 752161

building supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING @ low prices. Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

blinds

carpentry & joinery

B & S JOINERY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, staircases and refurbs. 07903 234137 or 0121 4939733.

cleaning

SURE CLEAN SOLUTIONS
Domestic & Commercial cleaners
For all general cleaning of: Factories, Offices, Houses, Shops, Retail Parks, Front of shop cleaning. Also Garden maintenance and Graffiti removal.
01922 334045

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Sandwell Stone & Fencing
For the supply and fit of fencing and slabbing. Delivery available. See website for details.
0121 544 7883
sandwellstoneandfencing.com
sandwellstone@virginmedia.com

gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

J&B TREE CARE Landscape and Jetwashing Services. All Pesticide /Fungicide work. Free fixed quotes: 07786 166856/ 01922 449268.

gas fitting

BRI'S GAS CENTRAL HEATING
Central heating and Boiler changes for all your heating requirements.
Free Quotes Call 07497 826697 safe

GAS SERVICES
• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

DAVIES INSTALLATIONS Building work, plumbing, decking, supply & fit kitchens and bathrooms. Call: 07793 747829 / 01543 300444.

HANDY MAN - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating. Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes. 07850 559315.

LOCK & CARPENTRY Plumbing, Plastering, Slabbing and Roofing. 01902 683100 or 07935 906384.

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.

Mr Causer.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

READERS ARE ADVISED

To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE Full, part and single rubbish removed. Garage and sheds cleared. Leather 3 piece suites / leather chesterfields wanted. Call now 01922 492007.

ironing services

KAREN BATES
Ironing Services
07841 677282

lock services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

painters / decorators

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds / Wallpapering. Tiling and Flooring. Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

LADY DECORATOR, full house or one wall - to customer requirments. For a quote call 07522 643706.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

D&C PLASTERING AND RENDERING Fast, clean, reliable service. Also building work. Free Quotes 07793 747829 or 01543 300444.

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01922 606503 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbers

LAURIE KENNEDY domestic plumbing, no job too small, Insured. No call out fee: 07901 345884.

plumbing & heating

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too small or large.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. 01922 660410 or 07540 950588.

GAS CENTRAL HEATING Central heating and Boiler changes. Gas Safe, Free Quotes: 07497 826697.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227

KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

skip hire

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!

It definitely works for us!"

Grinsells Skip Hire.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call: 01922 711411(option 2) or 07592 940556.

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BABY RABBITS 8 weeks old, ready now, lovely and fluffy. £20 each. 07808 070914.

vets

Express & Star
THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

MADE-TO-MEASURE
BLINDS SALE
UP TO 50% OFF*
MEASURING & FITTING INCLUDED
BLINDS | CURTAINS | SHUTTERS | CARPETS

HILLARYS
TO BOOK A FREE HOME APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR CALL 0800 916 6563 OR VISIT hillarys.co.uk
*Ts & Cs apply

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

businesses for sale

FISH AND CHIP SHOP for sale, Wednesbury, good takings. For more info call 07900 986120.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* **£90pw***
Rooms *from* **£65pw***
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

STUDIO FLAT Fully furn, 24hr hot water, pp, all bills inc, nr S'well hospital. Chris 07828 504083

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.
● NO AGENTS FEES ● COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
● FREE SOLICITORS ● ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
30 yrs
0800 999 999 6
or 01384 500 500 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

CASH NOW wolverhampton properties
FOR YOUR HOUSE
• Legal Fees Paid • No Fees • Any Condition
• Guaranteed Offer • Repossessions Stopped
We can buy your house in 2 days
0800 389 6788
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

LOOK
WE BUY ANY HOUSE
national homeowners helpline.co.uk
in a mess? talk in confidence we can help
WE PAY MORE
ANY AREA ANY CONDITION
*subject to terms *PI Group
24-7 0800 085 7499
24-7 0121 308 7786

pink run by women
sell quick
● No Fees* ● Any area* ● Any property ● Repossessions stopped ● Any condition ● Deceased estates ● Free confidential service
*subject to terms Property Investment Group
0800 044 8109 call free 24 hours 01922 689023

Private Investor
We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid
Telephone 07756 022973
straight forward investment solutions

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!
I pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house
■ Guaranteed offer* ■ Free solicitors ■ Any condition ■ No fees* * Terms apply GUARANTEED
24 hours Free phone or landline 0800 783 2822 01384 226086
Dewmark Homes Part of the PI Group

STOP WE PAY MORE!
100% every time* Any Property*
Free Solicitors No Fees* Any Condition*
01902 628 047 PI Group *Subject to terms

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY
MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
*Terms and Conditions apply
0121 405 0767 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS
"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."
Black Country Homes
For great business results call 01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

7 Jobs

full time - general

building & construction

SUB CONTRACT PLUMBERS wanted for refurbishment, works on retail sites, pubs, hotels, restuarants.
Apply to PO Box 17260, Birmingham, B25 9HW.

warehouse & distribution

POSITION OF WAREHOUSEMAN / DRIVER Main duties include Goods receiving and despatch, Stock control, Fork lift license, Driving pick.
Attention to detail and accuracy.
Email CV to sales@hallen.co.uk

CROSS ROADS CARE
OPEN DAY
RECRUITING NOW!
At
Sandwell Crossroads Care
Grenville House, New Swan Lane, West Bromwich, B70 0NS.
6th March 2017
From 8.30 a.m., onwards
Please contact us to book your appointment and come along to talk to us about our exciting opportunities
Immediately required:
Care Support Staff/ Field Care Supervisor/ Care Trainer (Maternity Cover)
MUST HAVE OWN TRANSPORT!
Tel: 0121 553 6483
Email: info@sandwellcrossroads.org
Website: www.sandwellcrossroads.org
We offer;
• Excellent rates of pay!
• Community working close to your home!
• Holiday entitlement!
• Enhanced rates!
• Pension scheme!
• Career progression!
All positions are subject to a current DBS. We are an equal opportunities employer
Charity registration no. 1040679 - A company limited by guarantee
Registered in England no. 2950188
carestrust

part time - general

PART TIME FUNERAL ARRANGER REQUIRED 20 hours pw. Mon to Fri. Covering Birmingham areas. B19 B42 and B71. Applicants must have own transport and reside within a 10 mile radius of postcodes stated, also would need to be available to cover at short notice. 0121 533 0241 or email collyer211@yahoo.co.uk

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

IDEAL FIRST CAR
PEUGEOT 206
2000 reg. 3 door.
Red. 1.1cc. MoT June 17 plus no advisories.
PAS. RCL. E/W. Air con.
CD player.
Looks drive great. Driven daily.
£380 ono.
07722 921378.

LOW MILEAGE
PEUGEOT 206 VERVE SW 1.4 ESTATE
2006 reg, red, only 59k, alloys, sunroof, air con.
12 months MoT.
Stunning condition.
Only £1,295.
Telephone 07399 675758.

cars over £1500

DIESEL
AUDI A3 1.9TDi
09 reg. 5 door. Sport back diesel. Silver. 10 months MoT. 65,000 miles.
Road tax £30 per year.
Excellent condition.
£6,400.
Telephone 07507 705589 (Birmingham).

HYUNDAI I 10.
2010- 4 dr, blue.
Low miles 28,000.
One lady owner.
Excellent. Reluctant sale.
Full MoT. Bargain
£3,400.
07970 780726. 01543 671976.

MINI COOPER 1.6
3dr, 06 reg, red with black roof, half leather seats, aircon, EW, alloys etc, new clutch fitted Feb 2017, 6 months MoT, 2 owners, 78,915 miles, FSH, last service at 77,195, excellent condition.
£2,695
07977 939497.

TOYOTA CELICA GT
2005, Immaculate Condition. 39,000 miles. One Owner, FSH. Long MOT
£5,000
07929 439397.

SHOWROOM CONDITION
VAUXHALL CORSA ENERGY
1.2, 5dr, 2014, black, 6,800 miles from new, MoT till January 2018, as new.
£5,850 ono.
07932 084639.

ClassifiedAds

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF OUR CUSTOMERS SAY

"The advert started on the Friday, sold on the Saturday!"
Mr Betteley of Stafford sold his Land Rover Discovery using the 6 night Repeat for Free Package

"Sold quickly which was great"
Mrs Burnside of Essington sold her Coachman Amara Caravan using the 3 night Repeat for Free Package

"I had to take advantage of the free repeats part of the package but it's still great that I sold the car"
Mr Brown of Bilston sold his Renault Clio using the 6 night Repeat for Free Package

ONLY £19.50 FOR 6 NIGHTS

PLUS

6 nights Free if you do not sell!
Includes one week online and your local Chronicles

TELEPHONE - 01902 317878

ON LINE - www.expressandstar.com/booanad

IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10 .2012. Private advertisers only.

Buy Local, Sell Local
01902 317878

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highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a) AND 16(2) OF THE MOTORWAYS TRAFFIC (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 1982
THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 2 TO JUNCTION 4) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M5 Motorway, in the City of Birmingham, the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell and the County of Worcestershire, to allow bridge, telecommunication, lighting, resurfacing, general maintenance and testing and inspection works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to, at different times, -

(1) impose a 50 miles per hour speed restriction on the northbound and southbound carriageways of the M5 from the centreline of Wildmoor Lane underbridge at Bromsgrove, to the centreline of Tat Bank Road/Stone Street underbridge at Oldbury;

(2) close, at different times,–
(a) the northbound carriageway of the M5 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 4, to its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 2;
(b) the southbound carriageway of the M5 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 2, to its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 4;
(c) any slip road leading to or from the M5 at Junctions 2, 3 and 4; and
(d) close various lanes of the northbound and southbound carriageways of the M5, from a point 800 metres north of the centreline of Carters Lane overbridge at Halesowen, to the centreline of Park/Street underbridge at Oldbury; and allow vehicles to use the hardshoulder.

The work is expected to start on Monday 6 March 2017 and continue for approximately 8 weeks. The carriageway closures will be in operation overnight between 21:00 hours and 06:00 hours on weekdays, between 21:00 Fridays and 08:00 on Saturdays and between 21:00 hours Saturdays and 10:00 hours on Sundays. The slip road closures will be in operation overnight between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours on weekdays, between 20:00 hours Fridays and 08:00 hours on Saturdays and between 20:00 hours Saturdays and 10:00 hours on Sundays. The speed restriction and hard shoulder running will be in operation twenty four hours a day for the duration of the works. The Order will come into force on 3 March 2017.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes will be exempt from the speed restriction and closures. Vehicles being used for special forces purposes will be exempt from the speed restriction, vehicles being used for traffic officer purposes, in connection with the works or for winter maintenance purposes will be exempt from the closures.

Diversion routes via the A491, the A456, and the A4123 will be signed.

For further information please contact Colin Jackson on 0300 470 3109.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/16/60065	Mr Steve Dale SLD Transport	206 Toll End Road Tipton DY4 0HF	Proposed 11 No. dwellings (outline application for access, layout and scale).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Ebenezer Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Ebenezer Street, West Bromwich (Dial Lane – Hawkestone Road). Traffic will be diverted via Dial Lane, Ebenezer Street and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is expected to be completed by 31/03/17, effective from 13/03/17. Purpose – customer connection for Virgin Media by Comex 2000.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (High Haden Road, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along High Haden Road, Cradley Heath (between the two entrances to High Haden Crescent). Traffic will be diverted via High Haden Crescent. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is expected to be completed by 24/03/17, effective from 14/03/17. Purpose – works to install a new link box by Western Power Distribution.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Jeffrey Road, Rowley Regis) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Jeffrey Road, Rowley Regis (Oldbury Road – Durham Road). Traffic will be diverted via Oldbury Road, Titford Lane, York Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is expected to be completed by 16/04/17, effective from 16/03/17. Purpose – works to a gas main by Balfour Beatty for National Grid Gas.

10 Personals

personal

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Express & Star

Ford Performance reveals next-gen Ford Fiesta ST

The third-generation Ford Fiesta ST

By James Parker

Ford Performance has announced the next generation Ford Fiesta ST, powered by an all-new three-cylinder, 1.5-litre EcoBoost engine.

Shown for the first time ahead of its global public debut at the Geneva Motor Show next week, the next-generation Fiesta ST will deliver 200PS, 290Nm of torque and anticipated 0-62mph acceleration in 6.7sec.

The third generation of Fiesta ST will be the first ever Ford Performance model powered by a three-cylinder engine, and the first Fiesta ST to feature selectable Drive Modes – enabling engine, steering and stability controls to be configured to Normal, Sport and Track settings for an optimised fun-to-drive experience in conditions from motorways to track days.

Drive Modes will also adjust Fiesta ST's Electronic Sound Enhancement (ESE) technology and active exhaust noise control valve to deliver an even more satisfying driving experience. The technologies amplify the naturally sporty sound of the new 1.5-litre EcoBoost engine that also features Ford's industry-first cylinder deactivation system for a three-cylinder engine, for further reduced CO2 emissions of an anticipated 114g/km.

Available from launch in early 2018 in both three-door and five-door bodystyles, the next generation Fiesta ST will be offered with a greater variety of interior trim and personalisation options than ever before, with bold and distinctive exterior styling that includes a unique race-car-inspired mesh grille and exclusive 18in alloy wheels.

It will be available in three and five-door styles

"Our next generation Fiesta ST is true to the philosophy of delivering cutting-edge technology to enhance every facet of the responsive Ford Performance chassis and powertrain," said Joe Bakaj, vice president, Product Development, Ford of Europe.

"With selectable Drive Modes and an all-new EcoBoost engine delivering an unprecedented combination of performance and fuel-efficiency, the new model will deliver the most versatile, fun, engaging and rewarding Fiesta ST driving experience yet."

Part of Ford's EcoBoost range of petrol engines that also includes the multi-award-winning 1.0-litre EcoBoost, the all-new 1.5-litre EcoBoost engine uses technology including turbocharging, high-pressure fuel injection and Twin-independent Variable Cam Timing to deliver optimised performance and fuel efficiency.

The engine's three-cylinder architecture delivers naturally high torque at low rpm. Performance is further boosted by a new turbocharger that uses an optimised turbine design to build boost pressure faster and minimise lag for a more responsive and fun driving experience.

A new combination of port fuel injection and direct fuel injection technology helps deliver high power and responsiveness alongside reduced CO2 emissions, with a particular increase in fuel efficiency under light engine loads.

Ford's new cylinder deactivation technology – first announced for the 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine and a world first for a three-cylinder engine – will further improve fuel efficiency for Fiesta ST customers without affecting performance by automatically stopping fuel delivery and valve operation for one of the engine's cylinders in conditions where full capacity is not needed, such as when coasting or cruising with light demand on the engine. The technology can disengage or re-engage one cylinder in 14 milliseconds – 20 times faster than the blink of an eye – to seamlessly deliver full performance on demand.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, March 2, 2017

Astra now a top credible contender

By Antony Martyn

VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI NAV 1.0 105 ECOFLEX, £21,205

When Vauxhall reinvented the Astra back in 2015, everyone was pleasantly surprised. The popular but unremarkable also-ran had finally become the class contender we'd been waiting for.

Mixing impressive comfort with solid driving dynamics, top tech and decent build quality, the Astra is now a truly credible alternative to the segment-leading Volkswagen Golf and Ford Focus.

In trying to squeeze fuel economy from a petrol derivative, though, Vauxhall has placed its 1.0-litre, three-cylinder turbocharged engine under the bonnet. An official fuel economy figure of 64.2mpg and a 10.3-second 0-60mph time would suggest that the combination works, but does the reality stack up?

Once upon a time, the Astra was something of a bland euro-box, but ever since the striking and angular model of the mid-2000s, it has become something of a looker. The last generation was a sleeker and more curvaceous attempt, but the new model is a slightly more grown up effort.

It looks modern yet restrained, with our mid-spec test car offering trimmings of chrome to add a dash of class.

Inside, it's less button-heavy than some rivals, with our test car's touchscreen dominating proceedings. Build quality is solid enough, and the cabin plastics are generally good, but the odd cheap-feeling switch lets the illusion slide slightly.

The Astra's cabin is made up of hordes of dark plastics and austere expanses of cloth trim, which makes it feel slightly more cramped than it actually is. In reality, there's bags of space up front, and only tall passengers will feel cramped in the rear – children certainly won't mind spending a long-ish journey back there.

It looks modern yet restrained

Boot space is decent, too, with the 370-litre volume falling an almost unnoticeable 10 litres short of the VW Golf's load bay. It's a very useable space that's more than happy to take a family's weekend luggage.

Downsizing has been something of a buzzword in the car industry for years now, but there are those who still can't quite be convinced that a 1.0-litre engine is really big enough to propel a family car.

Amazingly, though, the Astra is perfectly adequate in 1.0-litre guise. It's by no means the pick of the engine range, but it's far better than you might expect. Admittedly, the 103bhp output is never going to set the world on fire, and the chances of achieving the claimed economy in the real world are slim, yet it's a serviceable little engine that borders on being characterful.

Astra mixes impressive comfort with solid driving dynamics, top tech and decent build quality

It has quite a gravelly note at low revs, and that is fed back through the pedals, but at more adventurous speeds it settles into an amicable three-cylinder thrum.

The engine is, in many ways, a reflection of the car itself. It isn't the best driver's car in its class – the Mazda3 and Ford Focus surpass it on that front – and nor is it the best built, but it offers a very comfortable ride and handles well enough to offer up a little driver enjoyment when you're pressing on – that's not an easy balance to strike.

Our mid-range 1.0-litre Astra test car came in at £21,205, and for that included goodies such as 17-inch alloys, air conditioning and satellite navigation, as well as the OnStar connectivity and service assistant – something usually reserved for more premium cars.

OnStar allows the driver to call an in-house call centre 24 hours a day to ask for assistance, but it also hosts a connectivity suite including a mobile WiFi hotspot that offers an internet connection for up to seven devices.

Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are also included, providing an added dimension of connectivity.

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Express & Star

Relegation fight aside Jones is back for talk

EVEN a survival mission at the edge of the Football League won't stop the first manager to take Wolves into the Premier League returning to Wolverhampton.

Dave Jones has a relegation fight on his hands after coming back into football with League Two strugglers Hartlepool United, writes Craig Birch.

The 60-year-old had been booked to appear at the Cleveland Arms Sports Bar, on Stowheath Lane, on Thursday March 30 before accepting the top job at the Victoria Ground.

But Jones has confirmed with organisers Sports Talk Events he will be in the Black Country as planned for the date, where he's set for a warm reception from a healthy pro-Wolves crowd.

Wolves legend Steve Bull will join him as a second special guest.

Jones was in charge at Molineux from January 2001 to November 2004. His crowning glory came in the 2003 Championship play-off final, where he masterminded Wolves' triumph and lifted the only trophy of his 20-year plus managerial career.

They emphatically defeated Sheffield United 3-0 through a first-half blitz at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Trophies to hit road in cricket double promo

TROPHIES for the ICC Trophy and Women's World Cup are to hit the road ahead of this summer's cricketing tournaments.

Dates have been announced when they will take to the streets of the host cities. Sponsored by Nissan, the Trophy Tour will see both the ICC Champions Trophy and ICC Women's World Cup spend 31 days travelling around the seven cities. They will start in Taunton on May 2 and finish at The Oval on June 2 for England v Bangladesh. The tour will be in Birmingham from May 13-17.

ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said: "The Trophy Tour is the start of what will be a fantastic summer of cricket in the UK with two major back-to-back events – the ICC Champions Trophy followed by the ICC Women's World Cup."

The two trophies will visit schools, clubs, venues and landmarks throughout May. Full details of all the activities will be announced in the coming months.

Nissan Global Head of Marketing and Brand Strategy Roel de Vries added: "We partnered with the ICC to bring cricket fans closer to the excitement of the game."

I'm ready to bounce back, says Zaber

OLD HILL boxer Manny Zaber is ready to bounce back stronger as he returns to the ring on Saturday following a first career loss last time out.

Zaber suffered defeat at the hands of Josh Baillie in the first title bout of his pro career on November 19. The 22-year-old suffered a cut above his left eye, forcing his team to make the decision for him to retire in the fifth round.

The 'Pac Man' is set to return to the ring on March 4 at Walsall's Town Hall and insists he can't wait to get back in there.

"I'm ready to go now," he said. "I can't wait just to get back in the ring. ."

Saturday will mark Zaber's 10th fight since turning professional two years ago. He is joined by a host of Black Country boxers on BCB Promotions' No Guts, No Glory show.

Walsall super lightweight Luke Paddock headlines in an eight-round contest alongside Tipton's Ricky Summers,Wolverhampton bantamweight Kyle Williams also features.

There is also women's boxing on the card as West Bromwich welterweight Lauren Johnson makes her professional debut.

Harry Worrall has been refereeing junior football for over 40 years

Awards ceremony – Harry Worrall with Kelvin Brittain

Ref Harry has no plans to blow full-time whistle

HARRY WORRALL may have reached another impressive milestone, but he has no plans to blow the full-time whistle on his refereeing days.

The 78-year-old from Deansfield has been honoured by the Wolverhampton Referees' Association for 50 years sterling service and is determined to add a few more seasons to his tally.

Football League official Ray Olivier checked in at The Clarendon to present the award as Worrall joined Alex Hamil and John Kyte in an exclusive club with 50 years under their belts.

And Worrall is still going strong. He can be found calling the shots from the middle or chugging up and down touchlines across the Black Country in the Midland Junior League, Wolverhampton Sunday League and Bilston Youth Partnership.

And the 'old school' virtues are still very much on display. While some modern-day refs relish being in the spotlight, Worrall has always been happy to go unnoticed.

A quiet word here and there and a relaxed approach have served him well over the years, and helps ensure respect on both sides.

Respect

"I have really enjoyed it, and still do.That's why I carry on," said Worrall. "I am not as fit as I used to be, but I still get around and I have a lot of experience.

"I have had a bit of stick at times, but nothing major. It's all about man-management and how you talk to the players. You see the refs on the telly pointing their fingers and shouting 'come here' to the players. I never did that.I have a quiet word and talk to them in the right manner and sort things out. You have to talk to them properly to get their respect.

"I hadn't used to dish many cards out, in fact I haven't shown anyone a card for 20 years. The good refs are the ones that you don't notice."

Worrall first got the refereeing bug in English football's golden year, 1966, when he swapped playing for officiating.

"I used to play for Star Aluminium in the Wolverhampton Works League," he said. "I played at right-back and then ended up in goal! Someone mentioned that the league were struggling for referees, so I went along and took the course. Within three seasons I had got my Class One, which was the top rank.

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

As long as I can get up and down the pitch, I will carry on."

"I have really enjoyed it and made some really good friends over the years. My only regret is that I didn't start at an earlier age. Who knows, I might have got to the very top if I had done?

"I intend to carry on as long as I can. I still think I have another two or three seasons left. As long as I can get up and down the pitch, I will carry on."

Worrall has plenty to be proud of during his whistle-blowing days with a day out at Wembley one of the many highlights, while he also caught an early glimpse of a talented youngster by the name of Wayne Rooney.

"I refereed the final of a Coca Cola Tournament at Wembley, but I can't remember the teams," said Worrall, who also officiated in a girls tournament in Minnesota as well as numerous local league finals.

"But I can remember taking charge of an England Schools game between Wolverhampton and Liverpool and Wayne Rooney played for Liverpool. I checked the name after the game because he played really well and looked a very good player.

"I refereed a Central League game at Wolves and Steve Bull played. He was facing a ban so he had a run out for the reserves against Peterborough and scored five times.

"I have had a laugh with him about that a few times over the years, he said it was the only time he scored five goals in a game. I was also the ref for former Wolves defender Frank Munro's testimonial."

Worrall is also a well-known figure around Molineux where he used to help in Wolves' press office on match-days.

"They used to call me Uncle Fester because I wore a big, long black coat," he joked. Not surprisingly Wolverhampton's most famous official Jack Taylor, who took charge of the 1974 World Cup final between West Germany and Holland, tops Worrall's list of best refs with another local ex-Football League man, Hamil, not far behind.

"I ran the line in a game once with Alex Hamil on the opposite side and Jack Taylor in the middle," said Worrall. "Jack was the best referee I have ever seen, number one for me.

"I got to know him quite well and he was a really nice, down-to-earth bloke. I still haven't seen a better ref than him. Alex was very good too, he had the players' respect and treated them with respect too"

Of the modern day officials, Andre Marriner gets a nod of approval from Worrall, but he is not too complimentary towards the pundits who sit in the studio.

"I do feel for the refs these days with everything being so analysed," added Worrall. "The pundits annoy me because they sit there in the studio and watch an incident over and over again from different camera angles and then slaughter the ref.

Difficult

"The ref only has a split-second to make a decision. People should have a go themselves and then they would realise just how difficult a job it is."

Worrall joins Hamil and Kyte as the exclusive members of the Wolverhampton Referees' Association's 50 club and is proud to be part of an elite group.

"It's a real honour to receive the award," he said. "And I am proud to be a member of the Wolverhampton RA, it's the biggest and best in the country with over 140 members.

"Quite a few family members were there to see me receive my award and Ray Olivier was brilliant. It was a nice night and a bit emotional."

WRA chairman Phil Reade was full of praise for his colleague's achievement.

"Harry is well liked by us all and what he has done is marvellous achievement," said Reade. "Ray Olivier said when he was on duty at Molineux, Harry always looked after him.

"It's unbelievable to still be refereeing at 78. He is one of those refs that says get on with it, it's a man's game. He used to man manage people really well."

Harry at presentation with head of professional referees development Ray Olivier and chairman Phil Reade

What a save – when Wolfie's head came Harry carries it out for him

Harry won't blow whistle on 50-year ref career

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Perry's back on form with five victories

CRADLEY racer Tom Perry has been back on a bike for the first time since last season – and it was like he'd never been away.

Perry, who makes a return to the Heathens after two successful seasons on loan at Birmingham, romped to five wins in Scunthorpe's open meeting on Sunday. And he says he's raring to go for the new season with the Heathens looking to dethrone the Brummies.

He added: "I'm just really excited to get racing again now. I was back on a bike at Scunthorpe last weekend for the first time since October. It was only an amateur meeting but I won all five races and felt like I hadn't been off the bike at all to be honest. We've got some big meetings early in the season and it's important to get a good start."

The Heathens will launch their season with a special event with supporters at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Friday, March 10. All the riders will be present and they will be handed their 2017 race jacket by Dean and Adam Bridge from loyal club sponsors Motor Market.

They will then travel to Perry's former club, Birmingham for a challenge match on Wednesday, March 22 before hosting King's Lynn at Perry Barr a week later.

Their return to Monmore Green will come against Mildenhall on Easter Monday (April 17, 7.30) – and Perry can't wait to get started.

Perry is also relishing a battle for top spot in the Heathens team with high profile signing Danny Ayres level on his riding average going into the campaign. He said: "It's good to have two experienced riders at the top of the team, but it doesn't really matter too much who is at No.1. I get on well with Danny. We've known each other for a few years now and I'm looking forward to riding with him this season."

Small allocation for Goodison trip not the ticket for fans

ALBION have defended only taking an allocation of 1,800 ticketsd for the trip to Everton on March 11.

Some fans eager to go to Goodison Park were left disappointed after the Baggies sold out their allocation on Monday.

The club decided against taking the full allocation of 3,000 tickets because recent away followings have been significantly undersold.

The Baggies were unable to sell out smaller allocations than 1,800 for the trip to Southampton on New Year's Eve and the January visit to White Hart Lane.

Some 3,000 Albion fans made the trip to West Ham, but the club expected interest in that fixture because it is the Hammers' first season at the Olympic Stadium.

By contrast, the previous three visits to Everton were also undersold, and because the Toffees do not buy the tickets back, the club estimated that if they took the full allocation they would have to pay more than £30,000 to one of their competitors.

Fan's haircut a snip for keeper Ben

Dylen, mother Sally and Ben Foster

A YOUNG Albion fan who grew his hair to make a wig for children with cancer was left speechless when he found out his hero Ben Foster was the one chopping it off.

Eight-year-old Dylen Rose, a Mesty Croft Academy pupil from Wednesbury, had been growing his hair for more than a year. He thought he was going to the hairdressers to get his long locks removed but instead, was whisked away to the Baggies training ground in Walsall, where his idol was the one wielding the scissors.

"Around 15 months ago a family friend he knows was diagnosed with cancer aged nine months old," said Dylen's mother Sally Taylor, aged 32. "He asked me why his hair had fallen out and I said he was poorly.

"He said 'can I give him some of my hair?' and that's when he started to grow it."

As well as giving his hair to The Little Princess Trust, who make wigs for children who undergo chemotherapy, Dylen has also raised £650 for the Make A Wish foundation.

Foster, who raises money for Cure Leukaemia through bike rides and signed football shirts, said: "I've got kids exactly the same age as Dylen.

"For him to do it off his own back, his parents must be so proud."

Fortunately for Dylen a hairdresser was on hand to tidy up Foster's handiwork.

The Baggies have made Albion-mad Dylen the fans' champion for the match with Crystal Palace on Saturday, when he'll take the match-ball out on to the pitch

HAWTHORNS' GLADIATORS

IN the words of Maximus Decimus Meridius, Russell Crowe's brooding character in Gladiator, 'Are you not entertained?!'

Not only did the Baggies extend their unbeaten run to five games, winning their fourth home league game in a row and in the process equalling a Premier League club record, they did it in style.

The statistics will show you two defenders scored and outsiders may snigger when they hear that Gareth McAuley, a 37-year-old centre-back, is joint-top scorer of a Tony Pulis team.

There was so much more to this performance than set-piece mastery taking advantage of Artur Boruc's butterfingers. This was a genuinely exciting and enjoyable game.

Bournemouth played their part in that, because Eddie Howe's commitment to open and expansive football lent itself to a chaotic end-to-end affair, but Albion certainly contributed too, especially in the first half.

The Baggies were purring, shuttling the ball between them with confidence and running off each other with purpose. When was the last time you saw a Baggies team pull out so many backheels and nutmegs in 45 minutes?

In midfield, Nacer Chadli oozes class on the left, James Morrison is brilliant in possession and on Saturday also stretched the Cherries with darting runs in behind, while Chris Brunt's pinpoint passing threatens the opposition. Those three catch the eye, but the industry of Jake Livermore and Darren Fletcher is just as important.

Add to that mix Matt Phillips, Claudio Yacob, and Sam Field – the best 18-year-old Pulis has ever seen.Gladiatorial is certainly the right word and it's one that could be applied to the whole backline too, as well as Salomon Rondon.

It was an interesting day for the Venezuelan, who has now gone 11 games without a goal.

Pulis isn't worried about that drought because the team is scoring plenty.

Pulis now has his 40 points and for the first time in the Premier League he's reached that magical mark in February. It's a brilliant achievement and, with a dozen games left, one that will hopefully be improved upon.

Craig Dawson slides on his knees to celebrate his equalising goal at The Hawthorns

No let-up from Pulis as Baggies hit target

TONY PULIS has urged his Albion side to keep up their relentless pace after reaching the 40-point mark. The Baggies came from behind to beat Bournemouth 2-1 at The Hawthorns.

But Pulis – who said "preparing for Crystal Palace" when he was asked what his next target was – doesn't want his team to take their foot off the gas just because they've reached 40 points.

"That's the benchmark, that's what you always want to achieve," he said. "But you have to be relentless. It's difficult. Everybody is on social media and in the press giving them praise. You can get a bit relaxed and blase. You have to keep reminding them that it's important they are focused."

Last season, Albion's campaign fizzled out after they reached the 40-point mark but Pulis reckons this season's crop is made of sterner stuff.

"It's a different group than last year," he said. "It's a smaller, much more close-knit group."

Big year for Jodie with triathlons

WITH little over a year to go until Australia's Gold Coast welcomes the Commonwealth Games, Jodie Stimpson is ready and raring to go as she mounts her title defence. The 2014 edition of the Games in Glasgow saw the Oldbury hero take both the individual and mixed relay crowns, the latter alongside the Brownlee brothers and Vicky Holland.

On Thursday, Stimpson was in Nottingham to help launch the inaugural British Triathlon Mixed Relay Cup, which will see the relay format of the sport return to UK shores in September, for the first time since 2014.

And with Gold Coast qualification at the very top of her priority list for the season ahead, 28-year-old Stimpson admits the new event couldn't be coming at a better time.

"I hope that it's a good warm up ahead of the Commonwealth Games," she said. "It's another way to showcase triathlon.

"It's such a growing sport and everyone seems to be falling in love with it. I'll do all I can to qualify for the Commonwealths and see what happens. This year is really important to me. I've had a good winter, training has gone well, and I've done my best going into 2017."

On September 2, Nottingham will host the very first British Triathlon Mixed Relay Cup, an exciting new event that will feature some of GB's finest sporting talent racing around Victoria Embankment and Trent Bridge.

The likes of Alistair and Jonny Brownlee are also set to compete with up to 20 elite teams of mixed gender battling it out to be crowned champions in front of more than 20,000 people and a live TV audience. The British Triathlon Mixed Relay Cup Nottingham takes place on Saturday, September 2, 2017. Visit britishtriathlon.org/mixedrelaycup for more information.

Rangers edging closer to trophy

SMETHWICK Rangers were aiming to maintain their grip on the Premier Division Cup on Tuesday night when they hosted Wellington Town in the quarter-finals.

The Sandwell-based outfit beat Wolverhampton Sporting 1-0 last year in a tense final to win the trophy and boss Amo Sandur. He was expecting a tough encounter at Hillcrest Avenue against Wellington, who sit two places below Smethwick in the league. Sandur said: "It will obviously be a tough ask."

Smethwick did not play on Saturday as their game with Bewdley Town was postponed.

★★★

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